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OCTOBER 2003

comment

THANKS to all of you who have written or e-mailed to commend us on the changes we introduced to the magazine last month. The intention, with our new design and perfect-bound format, was to provide you with more information and analysis with which to follow the new season, not least in the UEFA Champions League. The competition has reverted to a single group stage format – full marks to UEFA for biting the bullet – with an extra knockout round before the quarter-finals. But never has the moniker of 'Champions League' been more misleading.

This year, four teams from central and eastern Europe are competing in the group stage – compared to 16 from the big five TV markets of England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. At least that's an improvement on last season, when the three eastern European teams received 3.5 per cent of the total prize money paid out to the 32 teams that competed in the group stages. By contrast, teams from the big five shared more than 79 per cent of the kitty. Wealth redistribution, all right, but not as Robin Hood would have done it.

UEFA's inconsistent attitude towards western and eastern Europe is reflected in their anti-racism campaign – a highly laudable exercise, but one where wealthy western clubs have so far escaped punishment. At the UEFA gala in Monaco I asked president Lennart Johansson whether a club such as Real Madrid could be thrown out of the Champions League if their fans were racist. He replied that it was possible, but unlikely given the lack of evidence of racist behaviour among Madrid's fans. Try telling that to the black players abused by the Nazi-saluting members of Madrid's Ultra Sur, or the black fans chased down the streets near the Estadio Bernabeu by the self-same thugs.

The Champions League exists in its own TV-manufactured bubble, a sanitised world where sponsors' cash is king and, officially, racism doesn't exist (no mention of racism in the editorial content of UEFA's expensive mouthpiece magazine, either; that might upset the sponsors). It's a world where East and West rarely meet on equal terms.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

*** SAVE MONEY ON WORLD SOCCER SEE OUR SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER ON PAGE 76

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CHELSEA LURE KENYON FROM MAN UNITED

ENGLAND: Not content with spending a world record £111m on new players, Chelsea sprang a major surprise by persuading Peter Kenyon to leave Manchester United to become their new chief executive. Page 57

Glittering goodbye
BRAZIL: The national championship is only at the halfway stage, but star players, led by Kaka, now at Milan, are deserting in droves. **Page 28**

Euro 2004 qualifiers
France, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Sweden are the first countries to qualify for next year's European Championship finals. Italy, Germany and Greece are close to securing top spot in their respective qualifying groups, while Holland and Slovenia must be content with the play-offs. **Page 83**

Brazil strike gold again
FINLAND: Brazil were crowned world Under-17 champions for the third time in four tournaments after a 1-0 win over Spain in the Final in Helsinki. **Page 52**

Champions League casualties
Borussia Dortmund and Newcastle United were the two biggest casualties of the Champions League third qualifying round, beaten by Club Brugge and Partizan Belgrade respectively. **Page 40**

'Hell' awaits
TURKEY: England prepare to visit Istanbul for their crucial Euro 2004 qualifier amid an escalating war of words over the security arrangements for the game. **Page 26**

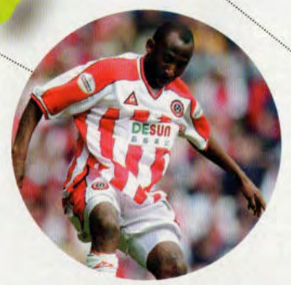
AL AIN IN THE FINAL

ASIA: United Arab Emirates side Al Ain reached the Final of the inaugural Asian Champions League, where they will meet Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana. The second leg of Al Ain's semi-final against Dalian Shide of China was delayed for four months because of concerns over the SARS virus. Page 68

Busy Boca's perfect start
ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors, who represent South America in the World Club Cup later this year, won their first four matches of the new League season. **Page 66**

NO CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

SPAIN: Real Madrid's summer transfer policy (16 players out, David Beckham in) has left the squad seriously weakened. Page 8



Flying Ndlovu is Zimbabwe's hero
SOUTHERN AFRICA: Zimbabwe reached their third COSAFA Cup Final in four years after two goals from Sheffield United's Peter Ndlovu – who had played in the English League the day before – secured victory over Swaziland. **Page 70**

Serie B chaos
ITALY: The new season has kicked off amid confusion after the relegation to Serie C1 of Catania, Genoa and Salernitana was overturned, and promoted Serie C2 side Fiorentina were allowed to jump straight up to Serie B. **Page 18**

Loyalty bonus

Luis Figo is happy to swap position to accommodate David Beckham at Real Madrid. Keir Radnedge reports

CYNICS HAD A field day three years ago when Real Madrid shocked not merely Spanish but world football by luring Luis Figo away from deadly rivals Barcelona.

The swoop was variously seen as far more to do with power and money than with football; a precursor, in fact, to much of the reaction that would duly follow David Beckham's move from Manchester United. Perhaps this is one reason why the two have adjusted rather more promisingly than had been expected.

The Figo deal cost Madrid a then world record £37million but it swung the presidential election to Florentino Perez and ousted Lorenzo Sanz, remarkably, despite Madrid having just won the Champions League. From Figo's point of view, the deal was seen as purely financial: that double betrayal enraged Barcelona fans and induced reservations among even *Madridistas* delighted at snatching away one of Camp Nou's crown jewels.

Yet three years on and, on the periphery of the Beckham fuss, Figo has emerged as far more of a Madrid figurehead than had originally appeared possible. Such is his status in Madrid that his pride and his position on the pitch and in the dressing-room hierarchy were issues for serious concern.

Beckham's arrival has revealed, indirectly, just how successfully Figo has erased the Barcelona image and taken on the mantle of loyal *Madridista*. Indeed, the arrival of fellow Portuguese Carlos Queiroz as coach is seen as a positive gesture towards Figo and acknowledgement of his position within the club.

No favoured son

Figo, of course, has no need to be cast in the role of teacher's pet and rejects suggestions that he is now a favoured son. He says: "I've known Carlos a long time and he's a very intelligent and composed sort of man. But, from a player's point of view, we have so many talented footballers that if anyone – anyone! – doesn't give his best then he'll be out of the team.

"I must also say his appointment was a surprise to me. No one expected it. Lots of other candidates were mentioned. Anyway, it was nothing to do with me. I was away on holiday when he got the job after Vicente Del Bosque left. That was also a surprise to me. We had been through a lot together over the past three years and it's not nice when something finishes like that. Football's full of surprises, not always nice ones."

The level of speculation about a potential right-wing rivalry with Beckham was also a surprise for Figo, even though he had seen the issue coming. If there were to be any conflict, then Figo was determined it would not start with him. As he says: "I have never had any problems with any team-mates and I have no intention of starting now. Everyone has to fit in with what the coach wants, whether you like it or not. Same for Beckham, same for me. The team matters more than individual pride.

"For me, what matters most is to be playing. The when, where and how is a matter for the coach. I can't do the same things I did on the right. I can't go past a defender and cross the ball the same old way, so I have to put my ability to work in a different way.

"As for Beckham, he has experience, class and he works hard for the team. I hope he's very happy here and helps makes us happy in return. If everything goes well, then we'll win everything. That's what it comes down to, after all."

The Beckham effect has not been lost on the rest of the *galacticos*. Even the worldly-wise likes of Figo, Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos were astonished by the mobbing they received in the Englishman's wake on the gruelling pre-season trip to the Far East.

"It was totally unreal," says Figo. "It was as if we were rock stars, not footballers. When you're in the middle of that you have to make a conscious effort to keep your feet on the ground. The other negative effect is that it makes other teams and players all the more determined to take you down a peg or two. So each day we have to work harder, run faster, think quicker. But I always knew that sort of pressure went with the shirt.

"All this talk about being the best team in the world…well, only results can tell you that. No player can guarantee it. We do have a squad of very talented and highly motivated players. Florentino Perez, the president, says we're the best team in the world but that's his view. I wouldn't make such a boast. Ask me the question again next May."

Figo's time at Madrid has been turbulent enough with the pressure of expectation and the fall-out from his original transfer. "There have been some difficult times," he says. "It's been very intense with so many games in so many competitions and so much travelling – but, looking back to when I came here, the time has flown by."

Good times, bad times

He refuses to pick out incidents, good or bad. Figo knows that casual remarks either about Barcelona or the pig's head incident from last season can be taken out of context and thrown back in his face. He concedes only: "I have probably learned more from the bad moments than the good. Football is so unpredictable.

"When I joined Madrid I had no idea what was around the corner. Of course, I'm thrilled at what's happened and how everything settled down. If everything goes according to plan I want to see out the remaining three years on my contract here. But it's never wise in football to look too far ahead."

Figo has picked up awards as World and European Footballer of the Year in his time at Madrid. They have been individual rewards for his commitment. But listening to him is to understand the weight of the personal pressure. Once he had joined Madrid, he had no option but to deliver. There could be no turning back.

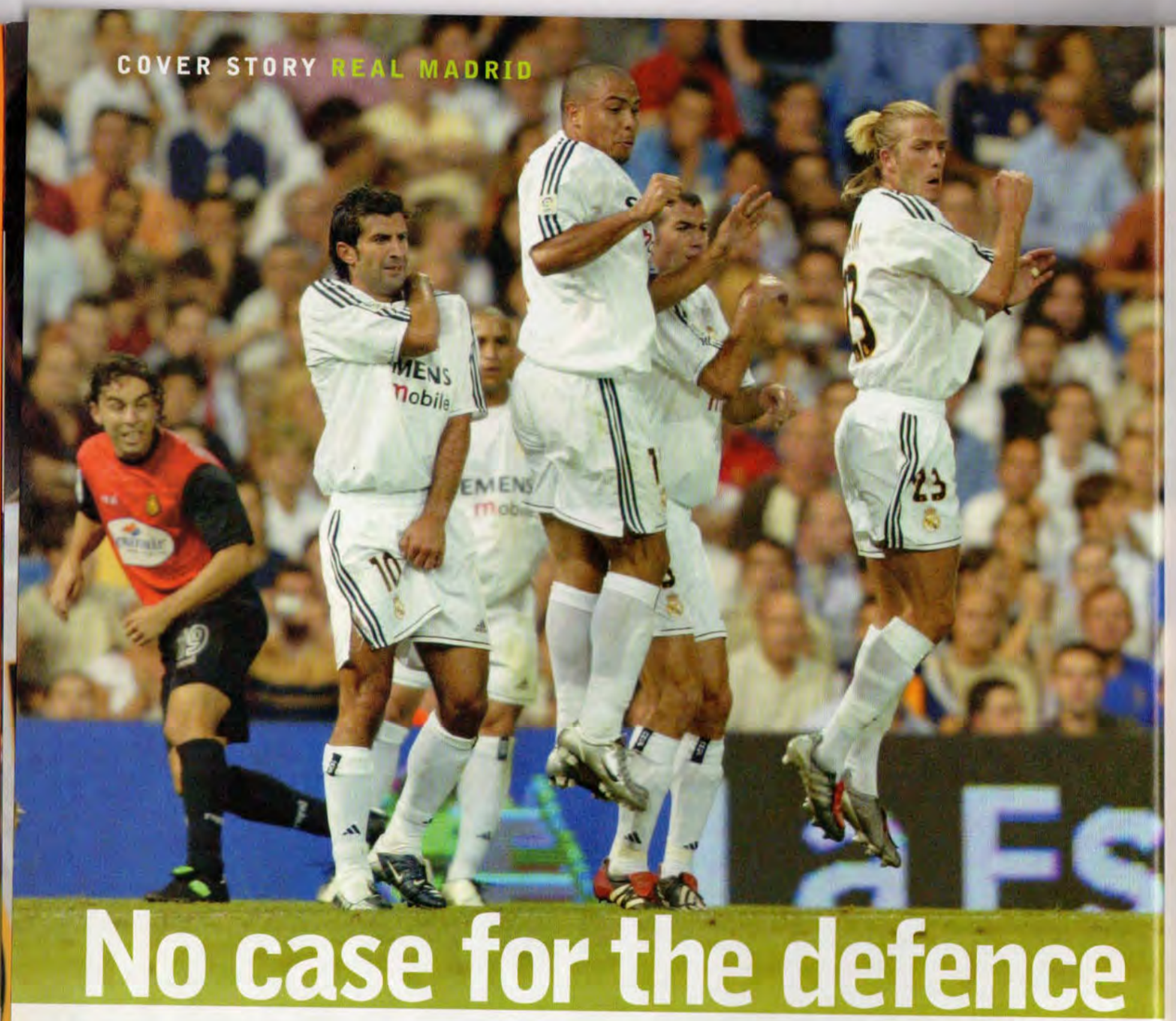
He says: "I was always committed to making the transfer work – there wasn't any other option. After three seasons, of course, it feels different compared with the first season. I know the people here now and they know me. I think we've learned to appreciate each other.

"Real Madrid have treated me well on a personal level and, on the pitch, brought me a lot of success. People on the outside don't realise how complicated is the process of winning a trophy, any trophy – and not just once but every season. But that's what we have achieved while I've been here and I'm very proud to have contributed to that."

This does not mean that Figo has lost his sense of ambition. This is the inner fire that keeps him at the top of his game; Beckham's arrival may well only stoke the flames.

He says: "This season I still want to win everything. The rest of the squad will tell you exactly the same. That's our mission. The fans do not, and will never, expect anything less."

Never mind who plays out on the right wing, he might have added.



No case for the defence

Finding space for Figo and Beckham in the same team is the least of Real Madrid's problems. Keir Radnedge and Sid Lowe report

JORGE VALDANO is a man who weighs his words, whether in conversation or writing his essays and poems. But Real Madrid's sporting director may come to regret his proud comment, after the arrival of David Beckham at the Bernabeu, that: "The Project is perfectly on course."

"The Project" is the work undertaken by president Florentino Perez to polish Madrid's image so that it sparkles both on the pitch – in terms of superstar footballers and results – and off it in terms of brand image worldwide.

But the mirror of football reality does not always reflect the desired image. Even Madrid, it seems, do not always get it right as the brinkmanship over Claude Makelele and Roberto Ayala proved.

Perhaps, remembering how the Ronaldo deal went through 15 minutes before the transfer deadline last year, Valdano and Perez assumed they could win the same game the same way.

If so, they may pay a heavy price. Developing a brand image with friendly matches and merchandise is one thing but the most important image factor is to be found out on the pitch. Madrid's summer transfer maelstrom has put all that work – and the value of the Beckham investment – at unnecessary risk.

Valdano is not to be underestimated. The release of championship-winning coach Vicente Del Bosque and veteran skipper Fernando Hierro at the end of last season were deliberate steps in reclaiming power for the boardroom from the dressing-room.

"Del Bosque and Hierro have not been dismissed," said Valdano in hurt tones. "Their contracts had expired and all that happened is that we judged it not in the interests of the club to renew them. They have left us with gratitude for their service and best wishes for the future."

The Project demanded, this summer, the incorporation of Beckham plus a new long-term central defender, while removing from the wage bill enough heavy earners to fund their fees and wages. When Carlos Queiroz arrived as coach he was told that Steve McManaman, Pedro Munitis and Santiago Solari all had to go, along with Flavio Conceicao or Esteban Cambiasso. Offers would also be entertained for Fernando Morientes.

So far, so good. The problem was persuading the unwanted players. McManaman, initially, sat tight in the hope of making himself as useful as he did last season. Munitis's agent was in and out of the Bernabeu almost every other day trying to keep his client on board. When Lazio came in for Solari the player flatly refused the pay cut involved.

The Double M factor

In due course they all went, apart from Cambiasso and Solari. Even Morientes, reluctantly, took the hint and went on loan to Monaco, where he will play Champions League football, his minimum demand.

But Valdano and Perez had reckoned without the Double M factor. First Gabriel Milito failed his medical, then Makelele's agent, Marc Roget, spotting Madrid's vulnerability in midfield, revived his client's old pay rise demand.

Milito, picked out personally by Valdano from Argentina's Independiente, brought a knee problem to Madrid. There had to be a reason Independiente were letting him go for a mere £3million. Real's subsequent refusal to entertain his questionable fitness meant the club, all of a sudden, faced the prospect of having to pay top dollar for an established centre-back.

But not only was the budget now holed but the market had swung against Madrid. Cristian Chivu, a long-time target, signed for Roma, who also renewed the contract of Argentina stopper Walter Samuel. Brazilian World Cup-winner Lucio, another Madrid target, had grown tired of waiting for them and committed himself to Bayer Leverkusen for another season.

The last solution was Valencia's experienced Ayala. He pulled out of the opening game of the season to stay free for Madrid. But Valencia demanded Real also sell their half-share in Mallorca's Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o. Perez decided £14m was too much to stump up for a 29-year-old Argentinian stop-gap.

Militant Makelele

In the midst of all this, Makelele turned militant. He earned only a fraction of Beckham's salary; he anchored midfield; he had been Madrid's most consistent player in the past two seasons. He was well worthy of a pay rise, and his team-mates knew it.

Valdano might have compromised but Perez, while shy and quietly-spoken, is not a man to bow to threats. It was not a soft-hearted approach that built a multi-million construction business and negotiated a sharply-defined path between politicians of every shade and wing.

So Makelele talked of Chelsea – and nothing happened. He went on strike – and still nothing happened. In the end he had only one option: to move to London after all. He went back to Madrid to claim a loyalty bonus for the remainder of his contract – but was swiftly shown the door.

When the summer transfer window closed, Madrid had shed 16 players. Perez defines his transfer policy as *"Zidanes y Pavons"* – a team consisting entirely of the greatest, most marketable footballers in the world (the Zidanes) and homegrown talents like defender Francisco Pavon.

Perez claims it's a matter of conviction. More pertinently, it balances the outlay on the Zidanes against youth-team salaries, while removing those non-stars who earn "too much" – important but non-glamorous players like deep midfielders Makelele, Albert Celades, Flavio Conceicao and even the adaptable McManaman.

The policy, which appears motivated more by economics than football, has left an extremely thin squad, especially in defence. Hierro's departure has left just three centre-backs – Pavon and Ivan Helguera, plus homegrown Ruben. Perez champions Ruben as another Pavon, but Queiroz prefers Raul Bravo, a converted left-back who spent the second half of last season on loan at Leeds. Queiroz insisted Madrid needed another centre-back, claiming "a Ferrari can't run without tyres".

Perez ignored his pleas. More incredibly, he insisted the departure of Makelele, the man who protected the defence, did not matter. "He hasn't got a footballing brain and never passes over three metres," the president allegedly sniped.

But Real are a weaker side without Makelele, and Queiroz has been forced to re-think. The first option is to use Cambiasso with Zidane in front, but the coach isn't completely convinced. He could move Helguera into midfield, but that would leave an already vulnerable defence led by extremely inexperienced centre-backs in Ruben or Bravo with Pavon.

Perez insists he has "absolute faith" in another youth-teamer, Borja Fernandez, as the new Makelele, but Queiroz wants experience, which is why Guti could be a central midfield companion for Cambiasso.

Or even, if Queiroz is really bold, for Beckham. After all, the England captain is winning them over as much with his workrate as his ability. Valdano has lauded his "competitive courage, Corinthian spirit and exceptional workrate". One team-mate agreed, saying: "Beckham really puts in the effort defensively; that's very useful."

If Beckham was to move to a central role, be that alongside Guti or Cambiasso, Zidane would likely revert to last year's nominally narrow left-sided position and Figo would return to the right wing.

The Englishman may be licking his lips, but as Helguera warned last year: "The role is mainly defensive, to make up for everyone else attacking. That might seem a pretty rubbish job to Beckham."

MADRID'S SUMMER CHANGES

OUT

CLAUDE MAKELELE (Chelsea, £16m)
GEREMI (Chelsea, £7.5m)
FERNANDO HIERRO (released)
STEVE McMANAMAN (Man City, free)
PEDRO MUNITIS (Deportivo, free)
JULIO CESAR (Valladolid, free)
TOT (Betis, free)
RODRIGO (Atletico Madrid, free)
VALDO (Osasuna, free)
SOUSA (Valladolid, free)
FERNANDO MORIENTES (Monaco, loan)
FLAVIO CONCEICAO (Borussia Dortmund, loan)
ALBERT CELADES (Bordeaux, loan)
CONGO (Levante, loan)
AGANZO (Levante, loan)
JULIO ALVAREZ (Murcia, loan)

IN

DAVID BECKHAM (Man United, £24m)

THE TACTICAL OPTIONS

NEW COACH Carlos Queiroz began the season with Beckham on the right of midfield, Figo on the left and Zidane in the centre, in front of the defence-minded Makelele. But the latter's sale to Chelsea leaves Cambiasso or youngster Borja as the defensive linchpin (option 1).

Alternatively, Ivan Helguera could move up from defence, but that leaves Pavon and Ruben as the only recognised centre-backs (option 2).

An alternative could be to keep Figo and Zidane in their positions from last season (right and left midfield respectively) and bring Beckham into the centre, alongside Guti or Cambiasso (option 3). Whatever, Madrid's defensive options are limited.

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

OPTION 3

Italian forward Paolo Di Canio is unveiled as Charlton's latest signing
12/08/03

Anderlecht eye the Champions League after beating Wisla Krakow 3-1
13/08/03

MetroStars and Kansas City Wizards draw 0-0 as the MLS season reaches a crucial stage
13/08/03

Rangers and FC Copenhagen draw 1-1 in the first leg of their Champions League qualifier
13/08/03

Cwmbran go down 3-0 to Maccabi Haifa
14/08/03

Roman Abramovich attends Chelsea's first League game of the season, against Liverpool at Anfield
17/08/03

Robbie Keane is injured in the Republic of Ireland's friendly against Australia in Dublin
19/08/03

WS WORLD SOCCER Good month... bad month...

Age no barrier...Wayne Rooney becomes England's youngest ever scorer

good...

HARPERCOLLINS The book publisher's boss, Victoria Barnsley, said that the company would make a clear profit from David Beckham's autobiography, despite having paid out a £1.5million advance.

FRANCE, BULGARIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, SWEDEN The first four qualifiers for next summer's European Championship finals.

WAYNE ROONEY Replaced Michael Owen as England's youngest scorer, aged 17 years 317 days, after his goal against Macedonia in Skopje.

FILIPPO INZAGHI His hat-trick against Wales in Milan was the first by an Italian in an international since Paolo Rossi's against Mexico in February 1984.

bad...

JOHN CAREW Thrown out of Norway's squad after a punch-up with Jon Arne Riise.

BASIL SCARSELLA Resigned as Oceania president following the debacle of his confederation's lost World Cup spot.

ROBERTO AYALA All set to join Real Madrid from Valencia until Madrid president Florentino Perez baulked at the £14m fee.

HAKAN YAKIN Back in Switzerland after Paris Saint-Germain backtracked on signing him from Basle following the discovery of a groin injury.

NICOLAS ANELKA Unlikely to feature for France while Jacques "There are 1,200 French players, the most ineligible is Nicolas Anelka" Santini is national coach.

TRANSFER TRAIL

		FROM	TO
Ibrahima BAKAYOKO	F	Marseille	Osasuna
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Jeremie BRECHET	D	Lyon	Internazionale
John CAREW	F	Valencia	Roma
Hernan CRESPO	F	Internazionale	Chelsea
Julio CRUZ	F	Bologna	Internazionale
Stephane DALMAT	M	Internazionale	Tottenham
Giovane ELBER	F	Bayern Munich	Lyon
EMERSON	M	Atletico Madrid	Rangers
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Boudewijn ZENDEN	M	Chelsea	Middlesbrough

Notes & quotes

"Santini is not the right man to lead France."
Emmanuel Petit aims a parting shot at the national team coach as he announces his international retirement.

"I feel like a 16-year-old."
Now aged 37, Kaizer Chiefs midfielder John 'Shoes' Moshoeu tries to talk his way back into the South African national team.

"It's not normal that a goalkeeper with my history should be a substitute because I can't speak Spanish well."
Turkey number one Rustu Recber is unimpressed after Barcelona coach Frank Rijkaard claimed he had left him out of the side because of his lack of Spanish vocabulary.

Man of few words...Rustu Recber

"How can I go out at midnight and tell my wife it's to watch football? She'd think I was cheating on her."
Deportivo La Coruna coach Javier Irureta on Barcelona's midnight rendezvous with Sevilla.

Honours even as Belgium and Holland draw 1-1 in Brussels
20/08/03

Christian Vieri's 17th-minute goal is enough to give Italy victory over Germany in a friendly in Stuttgart
20/08/03

Bayern Munich win 2-0 in Hamburg to stay joint top of the Bundesliga
24/08/03

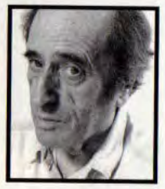
Real Madrid beat Mallorca 3-0 at the Bernabeu to win the Spanish Supercup 4-2 on aggregate
27/08/03

Newcastle fail to qualify for the Champions League group stage
27/08/03

Manchester City go through to the UEFA Cup first round after a 2-0 win over Welsh side TNS in Cardiff's Millennium stadium
28/08/03

Milan celebrate beating Porto in the European Supercup
29/08/03

WS WORLD SOCCER Brian Glanville



...on Victoria Beckham's influence...Chelsea's Roman revolution... Newcastle's galley slaves ...pointless friendlies

POOR little rich boy. David Beckham, I mean. For all his colossal collection of cars, his expensive array of jewellery, the money that pours in in torrents, his devotion, and his wife's, to conspicuous consumption. What happens when he retires?

I don't suggest that he will fritter his money away, as so many footballers and boxers have done. If he is by any ordinary standards extravagant, he is not so far as we know a gambler, certainly not a drinker, and what he does spend is well within the limits of his enormous earnings.

No; what I mean is that when he stops playing, he will be left alone with Relatively Posh Spice. For years now he has, mild, pleasant, unassuming fellow that he is, been caught between the upper and nether millstones, one consisting of the domineering Sir Alex Ferguson, the other of Relatively Posh Spice. Now Victoria has won the battle, Ferguson has been moved to sell Beckham to Real Madrid, and there will be but one dominant force in Beckham's life.

To say that Posh as a singer has no evident talent is to say nothing of real consequence. In a world made safe and so lucrative for Robbie Williams, what pop singer has? As we saw with the Spice Girls, and will see and see again, in that mindless, gimcrack world, manipulation and promotion is all. That she plainly feels she needs her husband's fame and image was clear enough when she initiated that summer trip to the States. But do not underestimate her. That she should somehow, against all logic and probability, have gained the admiration and support of Ms Anna 'Nuclear' Wintour, the icy, autocratic editor of American *Vogue*, shows her capacity at least for networking of the highest order. Who could have thought that anyone so chic and fashionable could have made common cause for anyone whose taste was so unremittingly crass: as evidence that awful wedding when Posh and Becks sat on their thrones in Ireland?

Beckham looks as if he might well settle down and do good things for Real Madrid, not least if Luis Figo is content to stay on the left flank and let him continue on the right. If so, good luck to him; and more fool Ferguson for letting him go, when his value to United has been beyond dispute.

Last season's Champions League quarter-final, second leg against Real at Old Trafford shows as much. Beckham was, he tells us in his autobiography, incensed that he was left out of the initial line-up, appalled to see how Ferguson had reacted when having scored superbly from one free-kick, he sent another over the bar.

Beckham is both right and wrong in his criticism of Fergie. Right to say that he was clumsily and insensitively handled, wrong to deplore the fact that he was at first on the bench against Real at Old Trafford. He had after all been a pitifully pallid figure at the Bernabeu in the first leg. Wrong again to read such negative significance into what surely looks a mere gesture of disappointment and frustration by Ferguson.

It's interesting, though, to read his version of the booted boot, which hit him above the eye in the dressing-room after that FA Cup defeat by Arsenal. There was, if one may say so, more to it than...met the eye.

First, he tells us, Fergie blamed him for one of the Arsenal goals. Next, he swore at Ferguson, who only then kicked the boot. That was by any sane standards a petulant and childish action, but it does seem more clearly explained, and you do wonder if the fact that it hit an outraged Beckham – who had to be restrained from attacking Fergie – was wholly circumstantial.

'Victoria has won the battle, and now Alex Ferguson has been moved to sell him to Madrid there will be but one dominant force in Beckham's life'

THERE'S not much doubt that outside their own support, people want Chelsea to fail. You could tell as much from the tone of the reports of their defensively inept 2-2 draw with Blackburn Rovers at Stamford Bridge, when they gave away two awful goals.

The arrival of Claude Makelele should stiffen the midfield, that of Hernan Crespo give still more power to an attack that already has such a formidable striker in Adrian Mutu. But football as we all know is a team game, and the multitude of stars striving for a place in the Chelsea team means that there will be much disappointment in the dressing-room.

It was significant that Joe Cole, one of the few salient young English talents, should get on for only the last 10 minutes against Blackburn. How long is he going to stand for that, knowing that for reasons of his own, Sven Goran Eriksson still seems unconvinced by him as an England player; to the extent of gratuitously criticising him in public rather than private after he had come on against Croatia at Ipswich, and so nearly scored?

Interesting to see it bruited that Chelsea might yet knock down a hotel or so at the back of what was once famously The Shed in order to enlarge the capacity of The Bridge. This, you may remember, was one of the biggest bones of contention between Ken Bates and the late Matthew Harding, who wanted the stadium to remain essentially a football ground, rather than a so-called "village" of hotels and restaurants. Roman Abramovich will doubtless decide.

'What is the point of friendlies any more, if Sven Goran Eriksson and his like are going to turn them into fiascos?'

I ENJOYED Bobby Robson's hopeful metaphor after his team had been beaten at St James' Park for the second time in a week, this time in the Premiership, by Blackburn. "We'll all get in the boat," he proclaimed, "we'll all take an oar and we'll all start rowing." All of them? Galley slaves?

NO MORE friendlies? Lennart Johansson, the president of UEFA, has suggested as much, given the plethora of nations now eligible to play in international tournaments. He may well be right. No one has done more to abuse them than Sven Goran Eriksson with his ludicrous deployment of substitutes in England's games. A strategy that has devalued them in every sense, making them pretty useless in terms of bonding a team together, and a virtual fraud on a public that has paid good money to watch them.

Long ago, Vittorio Pozzo, most competitive of competitors, winner of two World Cups with Italy, was lamenting that countries could seemingly no longer play each other except in the context of a competition. He surely had the European Nations Cup, now the European Championship, in his sights. Initially, the British nations would not compete in it. For years, it did at least conclude with a four-team tournament. Inevitably it grew and grew until today there are 16 finalists. Was there ever any need for it at all?

Less than ever now, with the huge pressure on leading clubs in the still more swollen Champions League and, to a lesser extent, the UEFA Cup. So such famous friendlies as Hungary's 6-3 demolition at Wembley in November 1953, or England's 4-0 win against Italy in Turin in 1948 are things of the remote past.

More's the pity. But if friendlies are going to be the fiascos Eriksson and his like make them, what's the point?

Read Brian Glanville's weekly column at www.worldsoccer.com

Notes & quotes

"Good players should be bought, not sold."
A disillusioned Christian Vieri after Inter sold strike partner Hernan Crespo to Chelsea.

Sold short...Christian Vieri

"At first it seemed like a crazy idea. Then the project began to make sense, and we went through with it."
Atletico Madrid president Enrique Cerezo on his club's sponsorship deal with American film studio Columbia Tristar. Atletico's shirts will henceforth be billboards for new movies such as *Bad Boys II* and *Hollywood Homicide*.

"No one could make all the talent in this country play any worse."
FC Porto chief Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa slams Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari after the national team's poor display in a 1-0 win against Kazakhstan.

"This is the shortest working day I've had in years."
Volendam coach Henk Wisman makes light of a players' strike over match bonuses.

Pavel Nedved is voted Europe's best midfielder at UEFA's gala in Monaco

29/08/03

Bologna and Parma draw 2-2 on the first weekend of the new Italian Serie A season. Elsewhere, champions Juventus open with a 5-1 rout of Empoli

31/08/03

Monaco confirm their position as the early leaders in France with a 1-0 win over Metz. The victory keeps them ahead of Marseille on goal difference

31/08/03

Barcelona and Sevilla draw 1-1 in a match, dubbed 'football for insomniacs', which kicked off at five past midnight

03/09/03

Macedonia fans set fire to an England flag as the national anthems are played before the Euro 2004 qualifier in Skopje. England beat the hosts 2-1

06/09/03

Filippo Inzaghi celebrates his hat-trick for Italy against Wales in Milan

06/09/03

WS WORLD SOCCER Global View

Under-17s refresh the parts other tournaments cannot reach

Paul Gardner reflects on the recent FIFA youth championship in Finland

HOW WAS THE football at Finland 2003, the 10th edition of FIFA's Under-17 World Championship? I'd say it was pretty good…but then I always say that.

I say it because I find it immensely refreshing to be able, for a three-week span, to do what I think a football writer should do: focus on football. To watch games, to concentrate on what the players are doing on the field, to talk to them and their coaches, to find out about their backgrounds, to discover what got them interested in the game…and how they see their future.

That is something quite rare these days, to find a friendly space in the football universe where one can blot out that raucous world of showbiz shenanigans that the professional game has become. For a short while I can ignore the garish tail of publicity glamour that now wags the overworked dog that is soccer.

Money, agents, transfer windows, hooligans, racist chants, drugs, clubs going bankrupt, clubs coining money, wives, shirt sales, television contracts – all those distracting intrusions fade away to where they should be, in the background. For three weeks I can convince myself – OK, delude myself if you prefer – that football is important, that the sport itself is what matters above all things in the lives of these teenagers.

Of course they know about money, but for the moment it is some distant prospect that will come, will surely come, in the future. Lucas Biglia, the Argentina captain, sees his future as maybe three or four years in the Argentinos Juniors first team, then, in one word: Europe. Similarly, Colombia's captain, Fredy Guarin, with the dominating ambition to play "where there's good football" – pause – "and money".

For the boys from South America, Europe is the promised land. And the performance of the Latin American teams in Finland would suggest the boys have a pretty good chance of making it.

Of course, there were scouts and agents hanging around, but they managed to be unobtrusive. National team coaches do not like dealing with agents. When approached by someone "on behalf of Chelsea", Argentina coach Hugo Tocalli flatly refused to give permission for two of his boys to be approached. "They are not my boys," was his reply. "You must speak to their clubs."

Well then, would Tocalli speak to the two boys to ask them if they were interested?

'For three weeks, I can convince myself – OK, delude myself – that football is important, that the sport itself is what matters'

No, he would not – "I want nothing to do with player buying and selling."

Tocalli then proceeded to give his opinion: "I don't think it's a good idea for boys this young to be brought to Europe anyway. Even when they're 18 – when FIFA says it's OK – it's still too early. If a European club wants to sign an Argentinian boy, the club should then leave the boy for two or three years to continue his development in Argentina. There have been too many cases of good young players who have gone to Europe too early and wasted valuable years, sitting on the bench…and ended up being loaned back to Argentina!"

Tocalli's response is exemplary, but the approach was brazen and underlines that European clubs are intent on signing ever-younger South Americans. The FIFA ban on players under-18 moving overseas is, in theory, an obstacle. But it was impossible not to notice a general scepticism about its effectiveness, an atmosphere of nudges and winks suggesting that if big European clubs wanted players, they would get them.

Interesting man, Tocalli. His views on youth soccer carry weight – he has been part of the Argentinian federation's youth programme since 1994. And here is Tocalli's view of the FIFA Under-17 and Under-20 tournaments: the world body has got it wrong. The age categories are wrong. Officially, the Under-20 tournament is called the World Youth Cup. But, says Tocalli, there's nothing youthful about 20-year-old players these days. By that age they're all full-time pros, many first-team players.

And when the U-20 World Cup comes around, there is always a tussle between the clubs and the federations over the release of the best players. Tocalli has this very much on his mind: he wants Boca Juniors' Carlos Tevez for the U-20 World Cup in the United Arab Emirates in December. Boca do not want to release him, preferring that he play for them in the World Club Cup against Milan.

Tocalli suggests that FIFA should downscale the age categories to an Under-18 and an Under-16 World Cup. When I put that idea to Spain's coach, Juan Santisteban, his eyes lit up and he agreed immediately: "Even at this [Under-17] level, we have full-time pros. Many of the Under-20s are super pros. It would be a very good idea to lower the age groups."

Jack Warner, the FIFA honcho in charge of youth tournaments, has plans to expand the event to 24 teams – starting, maybe, in 2007. But he was not so keen on changing the age category: "Good for the advanced countries, maybe. But for the smaller countries, this is a wonderful – and rare – opportunity for their players to gain experience."

But it seems to me Tocalli has a point. The FIFA definition of "youth" needs a rethink.

● *Tournament report, see page 52.*

WS WORLD SOCCER Mediawatch

News and views from the world's press.
Compiled by Keir Radnedge

Questions on football's future

FRANCE: "Wheel by wheel, race by race, the centenary Tour de France and the world athletics championships have given France a reason for sporting pride this summer – not least because the two events have demonstrated French *savoir-faire* in terms of sports event administration.

"With four million television viewers here the athletics can hardly compare with the football World Cup. But the athletics world championships and the forthcoming rugby world cup project a sense of sporting ambition which is no longer perhaps evident, after 73 years, in football's World Cup.

"That was certainly the conclusion drawn after last year's finals, better described as the World Cup of Fatigue and which did not live up to its potential.

"With FIFA celebrating its centenary and UEFA its jubilee, international football is about to embark on an important commemorative year – an ideal occasion for taking stock.

"What have you, FIFA, done in your 100 years? And what have you, UEFA, achieved in your 50 years? Even more important – what are you both going to do now? That is a pertinent question for both the international governing bodies: how can they keep a grip on their sport and maintain the loyalty of a public that has no time for worn-out players in a worn-out event?"
– France Football's *editorial tries to put football's future in context.*

Impressed...Carlos and Beckham

Life after Makelele

SPAIN: "We have not lost out at all in terms of squad strength this summer. Quite the opposite, we have made a huge gain in David Beckham, who has brought qualities very rare in any footballer – his combination of both skill and hard work. As time goes on you will see how he can bring more to Madrid even than people expect. Mind you, I'm sorry Claude Makelele has gone…"
– *Roberto Carlos on Madrid's changing faces, in* Marca.

Credit to Wenger, credibility to France

FRANCE: "The Premier League has become a sort of superior French League championship. I think, without false modesty, that I played a part in creating this phenomenon. I was the first French manager to cross the Channel. I brought with me Anelka, Vieira, Henry, Pires – that has given enormous credibility to French football and its footballers."
– *Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger in* France-Soir.

Singing the Bellamy blues

UK: "The statement from Mark Hughes that he is prepared to risk Craig Bellamy against Italy is disgraceful and a clear indicator of his total lack of respect or concern for the player's future well-being. The FA of Wales has not heard the last of this. They must expect we will fight tooth and nail to protect the interests of both player and club."
– *The perennial club v country issue firing up Newcastle's chief operating officer, Russell Cushing, in* The Guardian.

Midnight feast

Football in the early hours goes down a storm in Barcelona

SID LOWE
in Madrid

MAYBE IT'S THE long, long lunch, the midday sun or the afternoon siesta, but Spain is a late-night country. One where they think nothing of shopping until 10pm, eating at midnight and staying out until the next morning. Or kicking-off football matches at 9.30 or 10 o'clock in the 'evening'.

But even by Spanish standards, Barcelona versus Sevilla was pretty ridiculous. For the Camp Nou's first game of the season, the opening night of the Joan Laporta era, kicked off at 00.05 on a Tuesday night. Or Wednesday morning, if you prefer.

International week, with a whole round of vital Euro 2004 qualifying matches coming up on the Saturday, threatened to leave Barcelona rather depleted, so Laporta asked Sevilla president Jose Maria Del Nido to play on Tuesday (as Real Madrid and the excellent-looking Villarreal did, largely for David Beckham's sake) in order to free up as many players as possible. To do so, Barça and Sevilla would have to shift the previous weekend's games – against Athletic Bilbao and Atletico Madrid respectively – to Saturday night, something to which Laporta claims Del Nido initially consented.

The Sevilla president, though, denied any agreement, and insisted it was too late to change the time of the Atletico game. The tickets and posters had already been printed – and they said Sunday. Although Laporta offered to pay the costs of reprinting everything, Del Nido was adamant that the Camp Nou clash had to be played on the Wednesday. To which Laporta, who as home president has the final say in the kick-off time, replied: "OK, we'll play on Wednesday…Five minutes into Wednesday."

Del Nido was furious – as was his manager, Joaquin Caparros, who called Barcelona's decision a "clown's act", and captain Pablo Alfaro, who described it as "the ultimate in stupidity".

'Principled' stand

But Laporta, believing that Sevilla were simply trying to play a weakened Barcelona and irritated by what he saw as a broken promise, remained firm, announcing that kick-off would, indeed, irrevocably, be at 00.05. The Catalan daily *Sport* lauded his "strength on a matter of principle".

It was all well and good winning over the press, but there was still the small issue of the fans. The supporters needed to be convinced as well, so Laporta promised to lay on a host of special activities, including live music, an on-pitch play and the life-sized cartoon characters of the 'Barça Toons'. Then there were 25,000 free bags of crisps, 40,000 tubs of gazpacho, 30,000 yoghurts, 100,000 KitKats and enough *butifarra* (Catalan sausage) sandwiches for the biggest midnight feast the city had ever seen.

Not that everyone was impressed. The Madrid-based sports press was, rather inevitably, biting in its criticism. Already piqued by what they judged to be Laporta's efforts to Catalanise the club – expressed in his hope that Barça players would learn Catalan as well as Spanish, the playing of the Catalan anthem when Barcelona travelled to Leicester for a pre-season friendly, and the removal (and later return) of the Spanish flag from the club's emblematic youth training centre, La Masia – they saw the president's decision as little more than gratuitous, arrogant mischief-making.

They also, very kindly, developed a sudden concern for Barça's fans and the hardships they faced getting to and from the game so late at night.

Missed deadlines

The midnight kick-off also meant the game came too late for press deadlines. The pseudo-match report in *Marca* said it all. Under the headline "We can't bring you this report because of the capricious Barça president", the paper replaced the players' ratings and scores with a question mark.

Elsewhere, they also attacked the events laid on, dubbing the free food a "third-world soup kitchen", and quite rightly pointing out that a Wednesday night kick-off would have cost Barça only the services of Portugal's Ricardo Quaresma from the Dutchman-free side that did appear. *AS*, meanwhile, attacked Barça's failure to fulfil a contract with Audiovisual Sport, a company that just happens to be part of the same media group.

Yet, for all that, the event was quite a success. Most fans, seeing the night as a one-off – and one that had to be approached with tongues wedged firmly into cheeks – were intrigued and tickled rather than repulsed, and desperate not to miss out. A crowd of 80,237 packed into the Camp Nou. And they went away delighted, after witnessing a wonder goal by new signing Ronaldinho. Collecting the ball inside his own half, he stormed forward, beat Jose Luis Marti and Francisco Casquero, and thrashed an incredible 30-yarder past Antonio Notario that crashed off the bar, on to the turf and back up into the roof of the net.

This early candidate for goal of the season sent the Camp Nou wild. Who cared if it was 1.30am? Certainly not the Barça fans. The game may have finished 1-1, but as *El Mundo Deportivo* editor Santi Nolla wrote: "People left the stadium floating, kids only started to yawn back in the car…the atmosphere was so good you'd think they'd won."

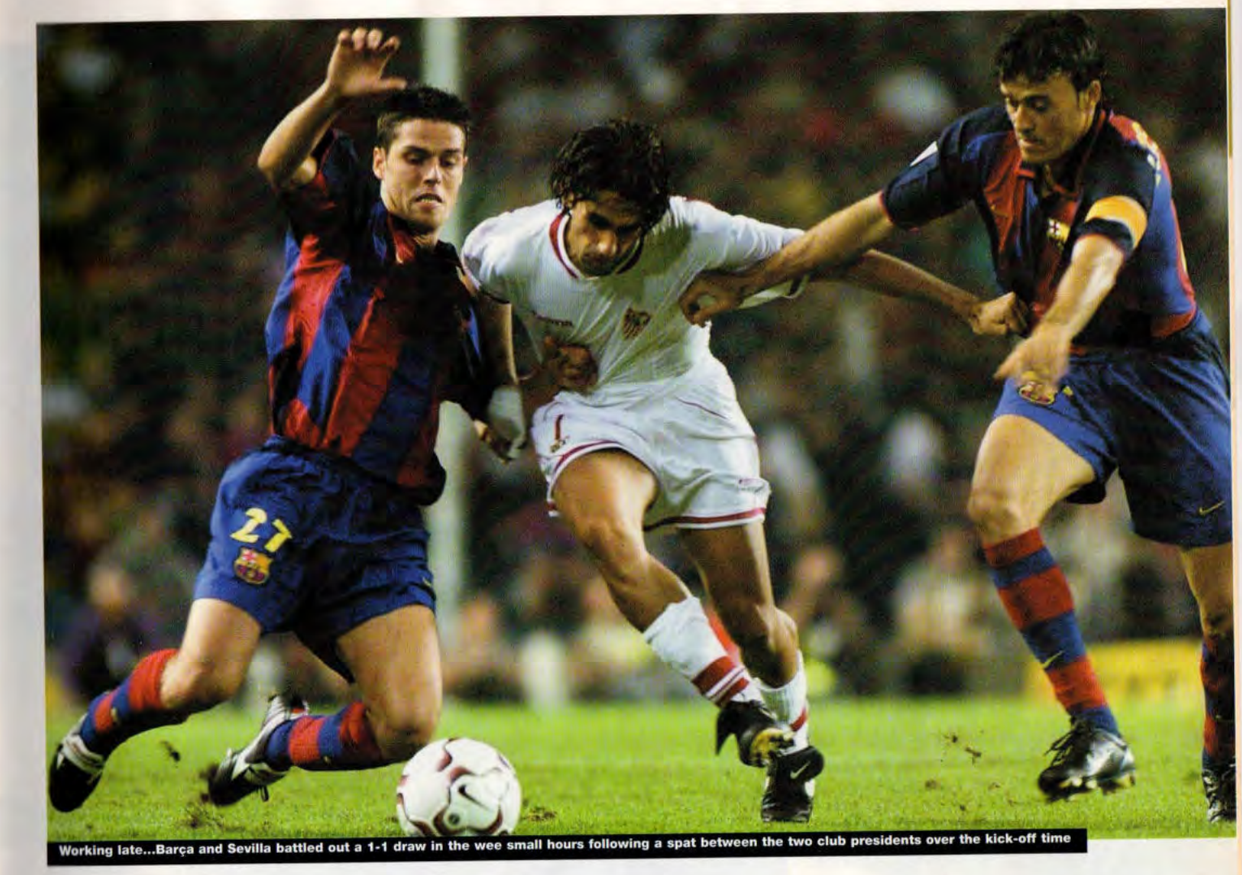
Sevilla's winger Jose Antonio Reyes was also impressed. He described the Camp Nou as "the biggest nightclub in the world" and Ronaldinho as "spec-tac-u-lar!"

Just days later, Reyes had more reason to celebrate, winning his first international cap in an excellent 3-0 friendly victory in Portugal. Unfortunately for Spain, the same night Greece beat Armenia 1-0, virtually ensuring that Inaki Saez's men would have to win their way to Euro 2004 via the play-offs.

While the squad overflows with talent, the team remains beset by question marks. Not least whether or not Depor's craftsman Juan Carlos Valeron can play in a side with Raul and "the greatest wingers in the world" (Reyes, Joaquin, Etxeberria and Vicente). Raul and Valeron play best behind a striker, and to have included them both for the Euro 2004 qualifier against Ukraine in Elche, Saez would have had to remove one of the wingers, shift Valeron so deep as to be useless and lose one of the excellent central midfielders, Ruben Baraja and Xavi Alonso, or not play with a genuine striker when Spain's problem has been goals.

The other, most controversial option would have been to leave out Raul, the subject of endless debate about why he had started the season so badly. Saez, though, insisted his captain was undisputed No 1, opting instead to leave Valeron on the bench. Characteristically, Raul responded with two goals as Spain won 2-1. He may not have played that brilliantly, but it was enough for the press to rave: "Undisputed for a reason", "Raul saves Spain".

● There was despondency at Real Madrid's training complex when it was confirmed that Steve McManaman (below, left) hadn't turned up because he was back in England, negotiating a move to Manchester City. After four years, Macca was going home – and the reaction spoke volumes. "I'm gutted, heartbroken," said one *Marca* journalist. "I don't interview him often but I try to talk to him every day, just because he makes me laugh so much. And at this place, that's vital or we'd all go mad."



Working late...Barça and Sevilla battled out a 1-1 draw in the wee small hours following a spat between the two club presidents over the kick-off time

'Ronaldinho's wonder goal sent the Camp Nou wild. Who cared if it was 1.30am?'

If the national team think they have problems, they should spare a thought for Valencia. Last year's failure to qualify for the Champions League or defend their League title has been exacerbated by a bitter presidential election, economic ruin and rumours of big-name departures, including Santiago Canizares, Roberto Ayala and Pablo Aimar. In the end, only Kily Gonzalez and John Carew left, for Internazionale and Roma respectively, but all is not well at Mestalla.

Coach Rafa Benitez and sporting director Jesus Garcia Pitarch cannot stand the sight of each other – and they haven't been slow to say so. Benitez complained that during the presidential elections, all sorts of bombastic new signings were promised, only for little or nothing to materialise once Jaime Orti won out. Instead, only relative unknowns Canobbio and Oliveira have joined.

Benitez has been quick to point out that he can't be blamed; after all, he's now working with "someone else's squad", one that hasn't exactly been furnished to his requirements. "I asked for a sofa and they brought me a lamp," he moaned.

He's in there somewhere...hat-trick hero Filippo Inzaghi is swamped by his team-mates after scoring in Italy's 4-0 rout of Wales

No, Prime Minister

Berlusconi's intervention precipitates more chaos as clubs rebel in the wake of the Catania saga

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

WE ALL KNOW, of course, that in Italy, nothing is taken more seriously than football. Lest we had any doubts, Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi made the point emphatically in late August when he broke off from his annual holidays at his luxury summer villa at Porto Rotondo on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda to return to Rome to chair an emergency cabinet meeting.

He had returned to Rome to deal with a looming national crisis of the gravest order. No, we were not talking forest fires, water shortages or boat people here. Yes, we were talking football or, more to the point, the very real danger that the always keenly-anticipated restart of the nation's favourite game might have been delayed, and for the second consecutive season at that.

The Prime Minister, of course, knows a thing or two about football. He is not only the owner but also the major strategist behind the success story of European champions Milan. Like millions of fans, he had been perturbed by this summer's ongoing saga surrounding Sicilian club Catania.

Although relegated from the Second Division at the end of the season, Catania subsequently appealed against that relegation, taking their appeal out of the realm of the Italian Football Federation's disciplinary courts and moving into the realm of the state judiciary.

To Catania's delight, a Regional Appeals Court (TAR) in their home city ruled in their favour, 'ordering' the federation to reinstate the club in Serie B. But the verdict also prompted other clubs to follow suit and very soon regional courts in Bologna, L'Aquila, Genoa, Reggio Calabria and Salerno were ruling on matters purely footballing, all giving suspiciously 'home town' rulings too.

It was at this point that Berlusconi entered, government decree in hand, legally obliging football clubs to accept both the federation's disciplinary rulings and also, as a final court of appeal, a Lazio Regional Court and the Council of State. Pleased with his work, no doubt, and sure that he had averted the threatened strike by Serie B clubs the Prime Minister flew back to Sardinia.

Within three days, however, it was obvious that rather than resolve the situation, the Berlusconi decree had inadvertently precipitated greater chaos. Serie A was threatened with a schism, 19 Serie B clubs had refused to play Italian Cup fixtures and the opening day of the League season, while at least three Serie C1 clubs were set to take legal action against the federation.

Relegations cancelled

The problem was that, buoyed by the government decree, the federation, headed by Franco Carraro, had come up with the controversial and unprecedented decision to simply cancel all Serie B relegations and enlarge the division from 20 to 24 clubs. The federation was convinced that there was no other way out of the Catania mess that would not entail further damaging litigation. Thus, it simply decided that three of the four relegated clubs – Genoa, Salernitana and Catania – should stay up. The fourth, Cosenza, were not readmitted because of grave financial problems; instead, Fiorentina, promoted to Serie C1 at the end of last season, were leapfrogged into Serie B in one easy bound, subsequently justified by the Florence club's alleged historical "sporting merits".

At this point, the league Italians like to call the "most beautiful in the world" started to get ugly. Furious with the sheer injustice of the federation's decision, 19 Serie B clubs dug in their heels and refused to play (Fiorentina, Genoa et al, of course, did opt to play). The rebel clubs were also concerned about the financial and physical implications of a 46-match season, while the larger division also meant that each would get a smaller chunk of the £50 million TV money sent down from Serie A. (As the row dragged on, the furious Serie A clubs threatened not to pay the £50m 'mutuality'.)

At press time, the situation had not been resolved. The Serie B clubs had extended their 'strike' into the second weekend of the season. A bitter stand-off had developed between them (Atalanta, Cagliari, Palermo, Torino and Triestina were the ringleaders) and both Carraro and League President Adriano Galliani, also deputy president of Milan.

Horsetrading begins

The rebels insisted they wanted to go back to the original 20-club fixture list. When it became clear that the federation would not step back, the horsetrading opened up. The rebels said they would accept the new 24-club division only on condition that six clubs be promoted to Serie A next season, with four being relegated to Serie B. In other words, they proposed a 20-club Serie A and a 22-club Serie B for next season. Galliani came back with a 'five and three' compromise, which would have still left Serie A at 20 and Serie B at 22 clubs.

In the meantime, confusion reigned. "Disgusted" Cagliari and Palermo presidents Maurizio Zamparini and Massimo Cellino said they would sell out their interests in their respective clubs and "abandon football". Galliani ordered the Serie B clubs to play on the second weekend, but they simply refused. The prospect of a schism opening, after which the bigger Serie A clubs would form their own 'Premiership', became daily more possible.

In happy contrast to these off-the-field shenanigans were the performances of the national team, firstly in a 1-0 friendly win against Germany in Stuttgart and then, more importantly and spectacularly, in a vital 4-0 Euro 2004 thrashing of hapless Wales.

This latter game was a real collector's item, offering an emphatic rebuttal to the Italy-bashers who would have you believe that:
1) Italian national teams never try to score more than one or at most two goals;
2) Coach Giovanni Trapattoni is so defensively minded that he never plays with more than two men up front;
3) Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi is a low-rent diver and offside merchant.

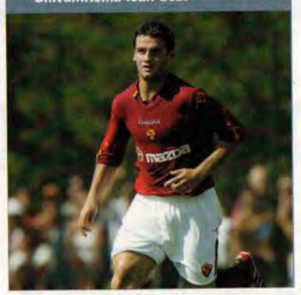
On a night when Trapattoni played three strikers (Alessandro Del Piero, Inzaghi and Christian Vieri) and when Inzaghi became the first Italian since the peerless Paolo Rossi to score an international hat-trick, Italy gave a textbook demonstration of controlled, relentless and intelligent attacking football. Given that they hit the woodwork four times, twice Welsh defenders cleared off the line and an exhausted Vieri also managed to trip over himself with the goal at his mercy, it is no exaggeration to say the final scoreline hardly did justice to Italy.

The quality of the performance was all the more remarkable when one recalls that for a full hour, the Welsh did not just ride their luck (and there was plenty of that for them, especially towards the end of the first half) but also stood their ground valiantly.

For Trapattoni, this was a night of particular satisfaction, one in which he laid the ghost both of last year's 2-1 defeat in Cardiff and, to a lesser extent, his palpable failure at last year's World Cup finals. His determination to play Del Piero in a wide left-sided role, allowing him freedom to drift in behind Vieri and Inzaghi, was rewarded with arguably the Juventus man's best performance for Italy.

● Romanian defender Cristian Chivu's £12m transfer from Ajax to Roma has become a four-month loan deal – because Roma failed to provide Ajax with bank guarantees that the transfer fee would be paid in full. Roma hope that the transfer will now go through in January.

Chivu...Roma loan deal



'The league Italians like to call the most beautiful in the world got ugly'

Figure of hope...Harry Kewell, firing in a free-kick during the goalless draw with Tottenham, has the ability and personality to revive Liverpool

Don't look back in anger

XAVIER RIVOIRE in London

Houllier's Liverpool still have a bright future – if they stop harking back to the past

'BORING, BORING LIVERPOOL.' There is no Clock End at Anfield. But the Liverpool faithful might have been tempted to borrow this motto from their Arsenal counterparts over the past couple of seasons.

Apart from a handful of games, their team has not displayed the football extravaganza that the dreamers and romantics would like to see. Worse still: the results haven't been up to scratch.

After the gloom of last season – missing a Champions League spot after being beaten by Chelsea on the last day – Gerard Houllier's team started the 2003-04 campaign on the same note: too defensive, unable to score many goals in open play; in short, quite dull.

Liverpool lost at home to Chelsea (2-1), then could get only a draw against Aston Villa at Villa Park and against Tottenham at Anfield (0-0 on both occasions). Creativity and efficiency were missing. The only real asset seemed to be Michael Owen.

As the pressure mounted on Houllier – who, after the harvest of 2001 (five trophies in the year), carried the team through two barren seasons – one League Cup, won against Manchester United in early 2003, was not enough to appease the Kop or the press. This was despite the fact that, apart from last season, when they finished fifth to win a UEFA Cup place, they had steadily improved: from fifth in 1999, to fourth (2000), third (2001) and second (2002). Houllier, who says the criticism doesn't hurt him personally but affects the team, replies: "We couldn't adopt a more attacking style behind Manchester United [last season]. We were the team who had the most shots on goal. People have the wrong idea. It is just that our finishing was not up to the standard of the build-up play."

Dominic Fifield, of *The Guardian*, having reported on Houllier's Liverpool for the past five seasons, would tell you that the Frenchman is a nice and decent person indeed, a respected tactician (a bit touchy maybe), but perhaps a man who has gone as far as he could.

Fifield also points out that part of the local press and the media have lost patience in the former technical director of the French Football Association. He says: "It is true that for some time now, the Liverpool press has been quite harsh on Gerard Houllier. In a way, they are right. Last year, the team did not offer very attractive football and did not qualify for the Champions League."

Houllier promised to build a more attacking formation: Steve Finnan, Harry Kewell and Anthony Le Tallec arrived in the summer. The reporters as well as the supporters were delighted. At last, we were going to witness more dynamic football. Unfortunately, the first three League games did not change anything. "That's why the letters pages and the radio phone-ins were so critical of Houllier," says Fifield. "The fans who did express themselves were virulent."

But to be fair, the criticism started way before the season opened. "Yes," says Fifield, "because the team could not even qualify for this year's Champions League. To the Liverpool board, this competition has become of paramount importance."

Goodison silenced

Two points in three matches saw them 15th in the League, not exactly the type of position the Reds are used to. Not exactly the type of situation the Kop deserves. Then came the derby against Everton. Liverpool were reborn. They were more offensive (with Owen and Milan Baros together in attack), more creative (Kewell centrally behind the strikers; Vladimir Smicer and El Hadji Diouf used as wingers). Three goals and Goodison was silenced.

It was the first time a Liverpool manager had led his team to four successive victories at Goodison Park. "Men against boys", "Reds walking on Toffees": the next day's headlines paid tribute to the newly-oiled machine. Houllier smiled but did not forget. Was the press making amends for all the bad publicity and speculation before the game regarding his imminent sacking or resignation?

But not even this win seemed to give total confidence to the players. When Stephane Henchoz, the Swiss central defender, was asked about the title hopes for this season, he admitted: "I don't think we can win it. One has to be realistic. Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea are above the rest of us. It is meaningless to put pressure on ourselves by saying we can win the League. Having said that, we are all fully aware that we will have to make amends after our disappointing fifth place last May. We ought to qualify for the Champions League and go as far as possible in the UEFA Cup; this remains a consolation prize for the club."

'The old Liverpool sides did not play the beautiful game people seem to remember'

However, Houllier will find no consolation and no sympathy from former Liverpool players who are now pundits and commentators. From Alan Hansen to Ian Rush, there are dozens of knowledgeable (or not so knowledgeable) 'Liverpool specialists' out there. Not to mention the Graham Sounesses of the managerial world. These people are seen, mostly, as nostalgics who have nothing better to do nowadays than demolish the new foundations of the club.

If it is true, though, that one cannot live in the past, then it is also true that the current team has sometimes given the media a stick to be beaten with. The level of performance, both in Europe and in the Premiership, has encouraged those with grievances.

It is probably also true to say that the Premier League team most scrutinised by their ex-players is Liverpool. Fully aware of that fact, Houllier has declared: "This [criticism] doesn't happen at other clubs. Tell me why." Criticising Houllier is one thing, but at times he has been made a scapegoat. After all, the myth that the Liverpool of old played beautiful football needs to be revisited.

Striker David Fairclough is one of the most outspoken former players. His view on Houllier is firm but fair and he is also prepared to admit that the great Liverpool sides of the 1970s and 1980s, for all their qualities and trophies, were not always pleasant to watch.

"The team I played in did not play the beautiful football people seem to remember," he says. "When I was breaking into the first team, in the mid-1970s, I was taught how to get the necessary result. And the same again in the 1980s. When we were playing away we looked to quieten the crowd and take the steam out of the opposition. Only then did we build on that. At home, we would occasionally set the house on fire but we would normally opt for a very conservative start. It was not rocket science, it was to get the right result."

If the player nicknamed 'Supersub' (for his ability to score crucial goals late on) isn't tender with the Liverpool he played for, he is hardly more generous with the Liverpool of today. "We are not going through a great footballing period. Even when you watch games at junior level, I find lots of the passing is going nowhere. We lack personality."

But there is hope in Kewell, surely? "Harry Kewell has got a great style and he has personality. He is a winner. Liverpool have lacked just that."

For those who saw the performance against Everton there is hope. Houllier refuses the term revolution but simply tries to apply evolution. He has to deal with the old glories of the 1970s and 1980s and knows well enough that finding the winning touch again is a long process. But people should remain faithful – he knows the formula.

Xavier Rivoire is the UK correspondent of French sports daily L'Equipe.

In front...Ljungberg and Arsenal

● Arsenal were the early pacesetters in the Premier League, winning their opening four games. But doubts remain about the viability of plans to build a new 60,000-seat stadium at Ashburton Grove, near Highbury. The club announced a record annual turnover of £117.8m, but have yet to secure full funding for the new stadium.

Ten years on...

ERIK BIELDERMAN in Marseille

OM have European ambitions once again

OLYMPIQUE MARSEILLE are back in the European spotlight. Ten years after winning the European Cup, the club are ready to compete at the highest level again.

Cast your minds back. Marseille, under president Bernard Tapie, were crowned kings of Europe. They were the first French club to win a European trophy; a decade later they are still the only French club to have won the Champions League. On May 26, 1993, in Munich, Marseille scored only one goal. But it was one to remember. A header by Basile Boli, leaping above Frank Rijkaard, was enough to beat mighty Milan.

But in a riotous dressing-room that night, club officials, among them Tapie, were almost in mourning while trying to hide it. The bribery scandal was about to break. Valenciennes' Jacques Glassmann had told the police Marseille offered him £25,000 (and to Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert) to lose a French League game, vital for the two clubs, just before the Champions League Final.

It was the beginning of the end. A year later, after being banned from Europe by UEFA for 12 months, Marseille were relegated to the Second Division because of bankruptcy and stripped of the French title. Tapie was jailed and forced to quit the club. Their best players also left – Chris Waddle, Didier Deschamps, Marcel Desailly, Fabien Barthez, Boli, Alen Boksic and Rudi Voller.

For years Marseille struggled. Then in December 1996, Robert Louis-Dreyfus, owner of Adidas, arrived on the scene. He began to invest millions (£120m and counting) in rebuilding the team. But at the same time, on the administrative side, the bad habits from Tapie's era remained.

In April 2001 Louis-Dreyfus asked Tapie to return to the club. It was his bid to kill the Tapie myth for good. The fans were still nostalgic for the golden era and with Tapie back they thought Marseille could recover it. But Tapie's magic had gone. Having destroyed the myth, it was easy for Louis-Dreyfus to let him go and bring in his own man.

A year ago, in came Christophe Bouchet, a former journalist at left-wing magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur*, to take over the presidency. As coach, Bouchet and Louis-Dreyfus appointed Alain Perrin, who was also wanted by Lyon. Perrin, who had taken Troyes up to Division 1 and then into the UEFA Cup, was the up-and-coming manager in France.

With no money to invest in players, the new leadership struggled to avoid relegation in 2001-02. But last year they finished third, qualifying for the Champions League preliminary round, in which they beat Austria Wien 1-0 on aggregate. In the first leg, Marseille became the first French club to field a starting XI containing no Frenchmen. But nobody in Marseille cares. The city is, after all, a port, a gate to the world.

Investing in the transfer market was a risk Marseille had to take. Bouchet says: "We spent £12m, gambling on reaching the group stage of the Champions League. With the income from Europe we knew we could be safe financially. The players were aware of that and they did the job."

With only 41 League goals scored last season Marseille were in desperate need of fresh attackers. So in came Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba from Guingamp, Egyptian Ahmed Hossam (Ajax), Czech Stepan Vachousek (Slavia Prague) and Steve Marlet (Fulham) to join the established forwards – Brazilian Fernandao and Russian Dmitri Sychev. Meanwhile, Ibrahima Bakayoko left for Osasuna in Spain.

Philippe Christanval, sometime national team member but a substitute at Barcelona last season, also arrived at the Stade Velodrome to strengthen the defence after captain Frank Leboeuf left for a final golden payday in Qatar.

Bouchet says: "Marseille still have the same power to attract players. The magic is still in their mind." Indeed Drogba, who could have joined Lyon, never denied his move to OM was more a romantic than financial choice. A desire to wear the white of Marseille proved irresistible.

"Our aim," adds Bouchet, "is to become a regular among the top eight in Europe. We know the top five is not a realistic dream but behind them is space for a club like us. Our model is Ajax." Before that, though, Marseille must survive a tough Champions League group with Real Madrid, Porto and Partizan Belgrade.

'Marseille still have the power to attract players. The magic is still there'

Club president Christophe Bouchet

Battle in Europe...OM's Johnny Ecker (blue) against Austria Wien

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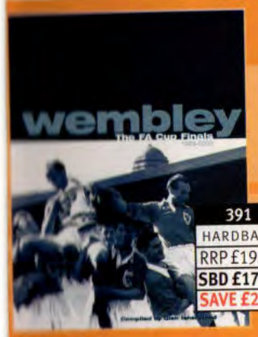

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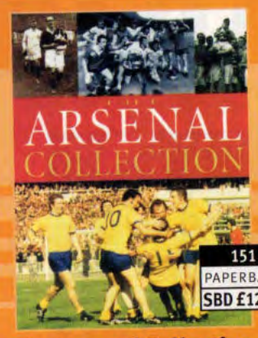

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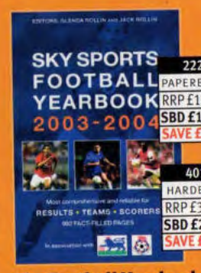

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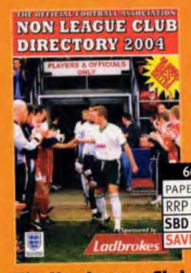

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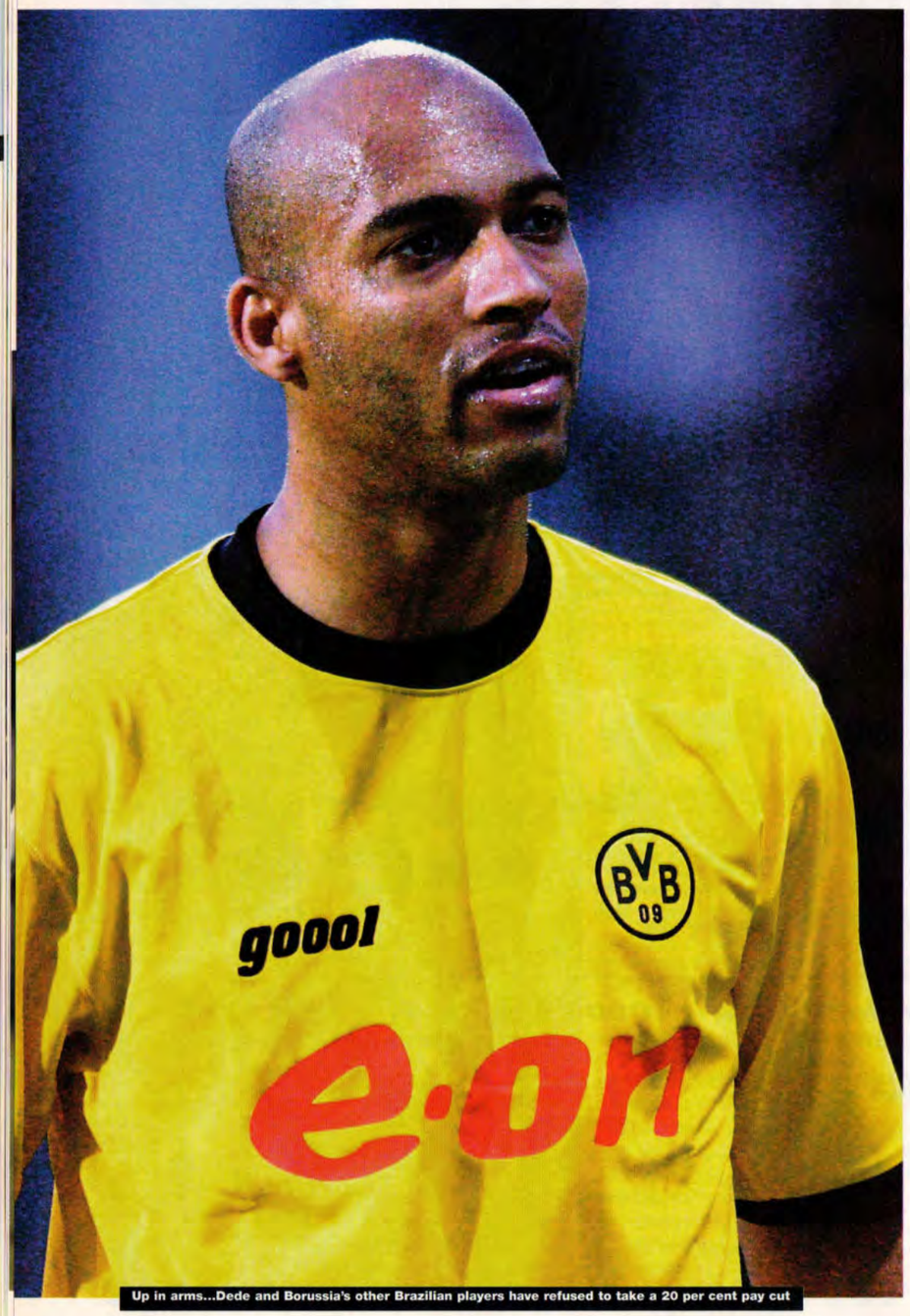
NICK BIDWELL
in Dortmund

Borussia in revolt

The club's Champions League exit sparks a crisis at the Westfalenstadion



Up in arms...Dede and Borussia's other Brazilian players have refused to take a 20 per cent pay cut

ALL FOR ONE and one for all? Not at Borussia Dortmund following their heartbreaking penalty shoot-out defeat by Club Brugge in a Champions League eliminator.

With the *Dortmunder* missing out on prize money of over £10 million, their board had hoped to make good the shortfall by persuading management, coaches and the squad to take a 20 per cent pay cut, adding the sweetener that the players would get the money back at the end of the season if they reached the UEFA Cup Final or finished in the top two in the Bundesliga.

Coach Matthias Sammer claimed he was sure his men would unanimously back the plan in an act of solidarity with the club. But he was wrong.

While Borussia's German stars such as skipper Christoph Metzelder, Christian Worns and Stefan Reuter gave their approval, the large Brazilian contingent (Marcio Amoroso, Flavio Conceicao, Dede, Evanilson and Ewerthon) issued a terse "*Nein, danke*".

"When there are problems at a club, it cannot be that we are the only ones to blame," said rebels spokesman Dede. "It's not good to have a situation where the fans here will applaud the German players and not us."

Despite making £22m from reaching the second phase of last season's Champions League, Dortmund chiefs insisted their course of action was justified. They argued they might have recouped the lost Champions League income by selling centre-back Metzelder – Manchester United were rumoured to be willing to pay £13m for the World Cup star – but concluded an across-the-board pay cut was preferable to losing one of their best players.

"I don't think altering salary packages from basic to performance-related is that unfair at this time," said general manager Michael Meier. "We are not asking anything of the players that we are not willing to do ourselves."

It looks as though it may be a long, difficult season for Dortmund. A vast chasm has opened up between certain players and their bosses, and there is a very real prospect of an exodus of star names when the New Year transfer window opens.

If the truth be known, Sammer and his superiors will not shed too many tears if players they regard as prima donnas do move on. The coach has long questioned the professionalism and hunger of some in his squad, while Meier was incandescent with rage after a sub-standard display in a recent 1-0 defeat at newly-promoted Koln, threatening fines for lack of commitment.

"Performances such as this leave me astounded," said Meier, whose sharp tongue is usually reserved for verbal assaults on arch-rivals Bayern Munich. "If the players had an ounce of honour, they would come to us and refuse their salaries.

"They want to be champions but forget it takes hard work to achieve it, that football is a brutal business."

Kaiserslautern crash

Another club in crisis is Kaiserslautern, who like last season have started the new campaign in soporific fashion. Four straight Bundesliga defeats had them anchored at the bottom of the table and if that was not bad enough, they also exited the German Cup in the first round, losing 4-1 to Eintracht Braunschweig of the Third Division.

Bundesliga champions back in 1967 and the club where the great Paul Breitner starred for a short but memorable spell in the late 1970s, Braunschweig have been in decline ever since relegation from the top flight 18 years ago. But the part-timers had no trouble at all in disposing of the shockingly inept *Lauterer*.

Outplayed and outfought, Kaiserslautern were second best throughout; the fact that two of Braunschweig's goals came from former *Lauterer* striker Jurgen Rische only rubbed salt in the gaping wounds.

No wonder Kaiserslautern coach Eric Gerets appeared disillusioned – "If the team continues to play like that I have no future here." During the first month of the season, virtually nothing had gone right. At the back they were hesitant and ponderous, midfield creativity was nil, while new signings such as Polish midfielder Kamil Kosowski and Belgian defender Stijn Vreven had contributed little.

"We aren't a team at the moment," sighed promising young keeper Tim Wiese. "We didn't show any heart." Gerets clearly has a tough job ahead of him.

At the same time as the *Lauterer* were being dumped out of the Cup, former Bayern Munich marksman Giovane Elber was unpacking in Lyon following a £1.5m move. Despite the arrival at Bayern this summer of Dutch striker Roy Makaay, the Brazilian had confidently predicted he still had a future with the Bavarians. He underlined his case by coming off the bench to score in the 2-0 win in Hamburg, at which the Bundesliga celebrated its 40th birthday.

Yet Elber had to go. Coach Ottmar Hitzfeld made it plain the Brazilian no longer featured in his plans, and after toying with the idea of joining Monaco, the 31-year-old plumped for the French champions.

Elber, who, in a twist of fate, will be crossing swords with his old team-mates in the Champions League, said: "I could have played with Makaay up front but Hitzfeld was against it. I don't blame him. He's thinking of Bayern's future. They have paid a lot of money for Makaay and he has to play, while other strikers such as Roque [Santa Cruz] and Claudio [Pizarro] are younger than me. Bayern wanted to sell me before I became a free agent at the end of the season.

"It was still a surprise to leave. I had just helped Bayern to the Double and was top scorer in the Bundesliga last season. But I'm not sad or angry. I won't forget Bayern. Now I have joined the Bayern Munich of France."

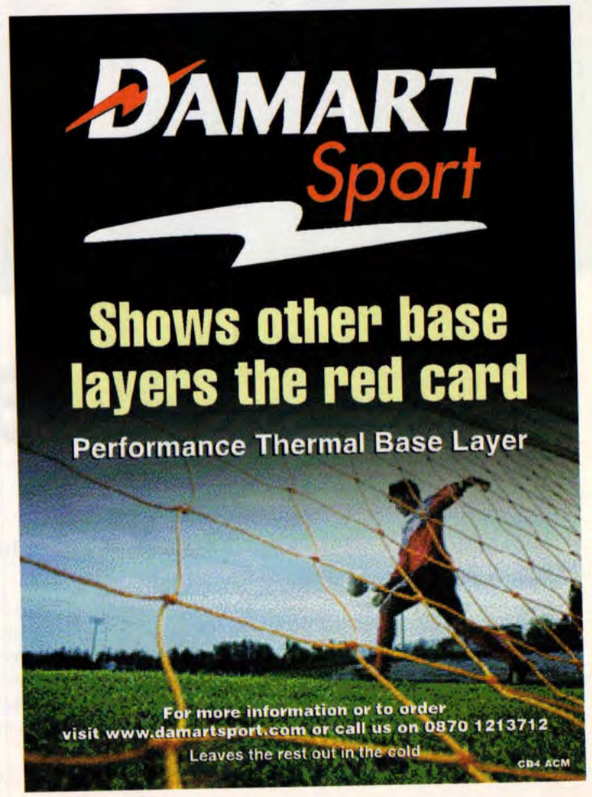
'If the club has problems how is it we are the only ones to blame?' *Dortmund pay rebels spokesman Dede*

Last hurrah...Andy Moller

● Andy Moller lives. It had been assumed that the 36-year-old playmaker would never grace the Bundesliga again after Schalke released him in May.

Instead, he has signed on for a last top-flight season with Eintracht Frankfurt before taking up a managerial role at the club.

Capped 85 times, Moller enjoyed two previous spells at Eintracht, and if his fitness holds, he can certainly bring much-needed flair to their midfield.



Some like it hot...Galatasaray fans' welcome for Chelsea in a Champions League tie is a fair representation of what England are set to experience

'Hell' awaits

SUNA ERDEM in Istanbul

England are likely to receive a traditional welcome for the crucial Euro 2004 qualifier

AS A FOOTBALLING venue, Istanbul is well known to English sides as "Hell". Galatasaray fans started it all by turning up at the airport to greet visiting players with the placards "Welcome to Hell". They then showed them why with their boisterous behaviour in the Ali Sami Yen stadium. When two Leeds supporters were killed in Istanbul ahead of a UEFA Cup tie with Gala, the city's fearsome reputation was set in stone.

Now England are wondering what kind of "Hell" Fenerbahce's Sukru Saracoglu stadium will turn out to be as they traipse over to Asian Istanbul for the first time to play their crucial final European Championship qualifying game with Turkey on October 11.

From the moment the fixtures were announced, Turks were confident of achieving a first win against England on their own turf. England pushed to change the date so that it would not be the last and possibly decisive tie of the group. Police on both sides expressed their concerns.

And that was before the two played a highly-charged qualifying match at Sunderland in April, which involved multiple arrests, a pitch invasion by fans and tussling among players and officials. And before a bad-tempered so-called friendly between Galatasaray and Liverpool in Amsterdam in August. It was also before the media in both countries began to egg each other on in an increasingly overblown campaign of recriminations and conspiracy theories.

Turkish fans were at their most aggressive during a qualifier against Macedonia in Istanbul in June, flooring a visiting player with a plastic bottle and forcing riot police to guard Macedonian players when they took corners.

The English FA has decided against taking up its allocation of tickets for the game. England officials have also been warning against individual, ticketless fans turning up and trying to get in. The Foreign Office has issued a sterner warning, threatening lifetime bans and "firm" treatment by the Turkish police.

Nobody is taking any chances. "We're taking this match very seriously indeed," said an Istanbul police official. "There is an extremely big operation being planned – there will be up to 7,000 security officials on duty for the match. Usually we have about 4,000 to 5,000 for a big match. We are making sure that there's no excess and no trouble."

Guard on England

Turkish police have already met in Istanbul with British police and English and Turkish football officials; further meetings are planned. The England team will have a police escort to their hotel and then to the game, after which they will be taken straight back to the airport for their flight out. Security officials will stand guard at the hotel.

Biletix, the Turkish agency commissioned to sell match tickets, has said it will not sell to British nationals. Any who do manage to get them on the black market are still likely to be turned away by police conducting ID checks at the ground.

Life has already been made much more difficult for any determined visiting fans by the decision to play the match in Asian Istanbul. Sukru Saracoglu was chosen after Ali Sami Yen was closed for refurbishment. Galatasaray's temporary home in the state-of-the-art but remote Olympic stadium and Besiktas's much smaller Inonu stadium, in the heart of European Istanbul, were also passed over.

Some see the Sukru Saracoglu decision as a minor attempt to annoy the English FA, which angered the Turks by making them travel all the way to Sunderland. To reach the Sukru Saracoglu, in Istanbul's Kadikoy district, visiting fans would have to make a lengthy trip either by taxi or boat from the European part of the city; once there, they face deafening noise from the home fans, who are intimidatingly close to the pitch.

It could have been worse, though. At one point the Turkish federation threatened to stage the game in a remote south-eastern town or on the Black Sea coast, near Georgia.

Threat...Turkey fans in Istanbul

● England coach Sven Goran Eriksson has warned fans could be killed if they travel to the decisive Euro 2004 qualifier in Istanbul. "If it's a security problem, then it's better not to travel because you can risk being injured, you can even risk your life," he said.

Clerics' plea

Sven Goran Eriksson's men should be grateful for support from one unexpected camp – Turkish Muslim clerics. Frustrated by increasingly obscene chants and gestures in football grounds, imams have been urging restraint and politeness. "It is the biggest blow possible to human honour to curse fellow human beings, who are Allah's perfect creatures. For supporters at sporting events to curse each other en masse is not behaviour that can be sanctioned," was the Friday prayer before Turkey beat Liechtenstein 3-0 on September 6.

"Now our aim is to beat England and qualify automatically," said Turkey head coach Senol Gunes. "With what we've done so far we've shown we can do this." Federation chief Haluk Ulusoy was more succinct, declaring: "They won't get out of Kadikoy alive."

Gunes' squad have had a faltering run since losing 2-0 to England – a scoreline that took the head-to-head goals tally to 31-0 in England's favour. A few dodgy friendly performances, however, were rectified by the requisite wins in the other qualifying games, and third place in the Confederations Cup in France boosted morale.

There are still worries. Striker Ilhan Mansiz, a star of the World Cup, may not be fit in time. The forward has yet to turn out for title-holders Besiktas – although the Black Eagles have coped very well without him so far, winning all four opening matches. But Fenerbahce forward Tuncay Sanli has been putting on some stellar international performances and veteran Hakan Sukur and Hasan Sas have been returning to form at Galatasaray.

More worrying is that keeper Rustu Recber has found himself languishing on the bench for most of the time since his transfer to Barcelona. This prompted a phone call to the club from Turkey general manager Can Cobanoglu to the effect of: "We can't afford to have Rustu sidelined. Sort this out."

'The deafening Turkish fans will be intimidatingly close to the pitch'

Joining the exodus...Sao Paulo's inspirational playmaker Kaka has left for Milan

Glittering goodbye

BRIAN HOMEWOOD
in Rio de Janeiro

Star players are deserting for Europe in droves – and the championship is only halfway through

THE BRAZILIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION'S bid to boost the prestige of its national championship has been dealt a severe blow by a mass exodus of top players halfway through the competition.

More than 50 players, including many of the big attractions, have packed their bags and headed for Europe just as the tournament was supposed to be getting into full swing.

Leaders Cruzeiro lost top scorer Deivid to Bordeaux almost immediately after he scored a hat-trick in a 5-2 win over Bahia. The team immediately suffered a slump in form and were knocked off the top of the table by Santos four rounds of matches later. They were level on points with Santos at press time.

Third-placed Sao Paulo just appeared to be getting into their stride under new manager Roberto Rojas when midfield inspiration Kaka left for Milan and Reinaldo departed for Paris Saint-Germain.

Gremio, a traditional force in the south of the country and semi-finalists in the Libertadores Cup as recently as May, plummeted to the bottom of the table after strikers Rodrigo Fabri and Luiz Mario and defender Anderson Polga all left the cash-strapped club.

Other players to depart included Corinthians defender Fabio Luciano (Fenerbahce), the superbly-named Vitoria striker Allan Delon (to Mexico's Tigres UNL), Paysandu striker Iarley to Boca Juniors and Santos striker Ricardo Oliveira to Valencia. Even Ricardo Oliveira's immediate substitute, Nene, left the country.

Corinthians, who also lost striker Liedson to Sporting Lisbon and Kleber, on a year's loan to Hannover, ended up fielding eight players under the age of 20 in their match against Flamengo.

Diego stays

For one worrying moment, it even seemed that Santos would lose their teenage maestros Diego and Robinho, the duet who led them to their memorable Brazilian championship title last year. Happily, both deals – Diego was involved in protracted talks with Tottenham – fell through, and the pair were left to continue delighting local crowds rather than warm European substitutes' benches, which is so often the fate of Brazilian players sold abroad too early.

But furious Santos coach Emerson Leao hit out at agents – in this case Diego's father Dejair Cunha – alleging that they induced players to move when they were really quite happy to stay put.

There is, of course, nothing new about Brazil's top players moving abroad. But this is the first time it has happened halfway through the championship. And it seems that the players are being inveigled away at an ever-younger age.

Until now, the Brazilian season has been divided into two halves, with the state championships in the first followed by a shortened national championship in the second. The break has always coincided with the European close season, when most of the wheeling and dealing goes on.

This time, after years of hesitation, Brazilian football finally decided to take the plunge and hold a full-length national championship on a conventional league basis.

The move was widely welcomed as a huge step forward. The hitch was the decision to start in March and end in early December. Even federation president Ricardo Teixeira, who does not usually bother himself with the health of the domestic game, admitted something would have to be done in the future.

"The directors are carrying out their project of finishing the 2003 championship without a single star player involved," wrote veteran commentator Armando Nogueira. "In earlier times, talent was allowed to develop, take root and flourish. Now, they're taking the chickens when they've barely hatched. Soon, they'll be buying up the players before they've grown their first set of teeth."

As the top players departed, the crowds plummeted. The Flamengo-Corinthians fixture, between the two clubs who claim to be Brazil's most popular, with an estimated 40 million supporters between them, drew a pathetic 13,000 crowd to the Maracana on a grey Sunday afternoon.

A couple of derbies have boosted Vasco da Gama's average home attendance to just over 6,000, but the 1997 and 2000 champions have often attracted only three-figure crowds. Only promoted Fortaleza, who play in a city where top-class football is still a novelty, could boast anything close to top European level crowds. Matchday 28 drew a total of 108,000 to 12 games, an average of 9,000.

Rebuilding a team halfway through the competition has never been a recipe for success, and as performances got worse, the Dance of the Coaches upped the tempo to a quite phenomenal rate.

After 29 rounds of matches, an amazing 34 coaches had either been fired or sacked, with only Cruzeiro, Santos, Ponte Preta, Coritiba, Corinthians and Internacional managing to avoid any changes since the action began on March 29.

'Even Nene, who replaced Valencia buy Ricardo Oliveira at Santos, has left the country'

Vitoria and Gremio have both now used four different coaches, the latter club's present incumbent Adilson Batista earlier having had a stint at Parana. His former side, along with Bahia, Criciuma, Fortaleza, Juventude, Fluminense, Sao Caetano, Figueirense and Bahia, have all had three different coaches.

Perhaps the most bizarre sequence of events was at Fortaleza, where Luis Carlos Teixeira resigned after the first match, was replaced by Ferdinando Teixeira – who himself stepped down 14 matches later – and then returned, only to resign for a second time after another nine games.

Although club directors are blamed for the high turnover, the coaches themselves are sometimes at fault. Nelsinho Baptista, who was fired by Flamengo, then took over at Sao Caetano but walked out after only two matches to take up an offer of employment abroad.

In addition to Nelsinho Baptista and Adilson Batista, a number of coaches had worked with two different clubs since the start – Oswaldo de Oliveira (Sao Paulo and Flamengo), Lori Sandri (Criciuma and Vitoria), Joel Santana (Vitoria and Fluminense), Dario Pereira (Paysandu and Gremio), Cuca (Parana and Goias) and Mario Sergio (Sao Caetano and Atletico Paranaense).

Cruzeiro in front

With 29 of the 46 rounds of matches played, Vanderlei Luxemburgo's Cruzeiro were still top of the standings. The Foxes had led since May 11 except for one brief week when they were overtaken by Santos. A 4-1 win over Guarani, with Brazil midfielder Alex scoring a hat-trick and setting up the fourth for Colombian striker Victor Aristizabal, put them back ahead of Santos on goal difference.

The latter again paid the price for failing to perform against supposedly modest opposition as they were held 0-0 at Fortaleza. "We need to be aware that it's not just about playing against the teams with tradition. We have to respect everyone," said Leao.

Sao Paulo, Coritiba and Internacional – two, five and eight points behind the leaders respectively – are the other realistic challengers.

Of the other pre-season favourites, Corinthians drifted down the table after selling most of their top players and were only really fighting for a Libertadores Cup place. Atletico Mineiro, Cruzeiro's arch-rivals, failed to ignite despite repatriating Alex Alves from Hertha Berlin to play alongside former Roma striker Fabio Junior.

Injuries and ban...Romario

● The Rio clubs have continued to struggle, with Flamengo hovering around mid-table and Vasco da Gama and Fluminense flirting with relegation. Fluminense, semi-finalists last year, were not helped by a series of injuries to 37-year-old Romario. Having recovered from his latest problem, 'Shortie' was promptly banned for three games for insulting a linesman from the bench during a bad-tempered derby against Flamengo.
● Fluminense were also hit by scandal when the wife of sacked midfielder Djair made widely-publicised allegations of women being allowed into the team's training camp and of "orgies" taking place.
● Barely had the dust settled when the club were fined £40,000 for stealing water. The state water company Cedae discovered Fluminense had built a secret connection to the mains supply, bypassing Cedae's meter.

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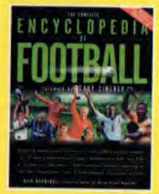

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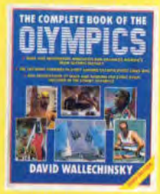

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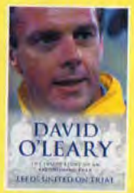

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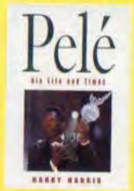

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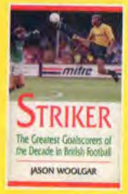

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GIANLUIGI BUFFON BELIEVES Juventus, after the upset of their Champions League Final defeat, have made the changes that will guarantee "near perfection". That, in turn, could allow them to win everything they pursue this coming season.

WORLD SOCCER: You have made a great start already: Juventus won the Italian Supercup against Milan in New York, you were man of the match in Italy's 1-0 friendly win in Germany and were then voted UEFA's Player of the Season. Can it get any better?
GIANLUIGI BUFFON: Only when we win both the Champions League and the Italian League this season. I'm very proud of the UEFA award. It's not usually goalkeepers who get these prizes.

Do you resent that it's usually attackers who get the adulation?
No, great forwards deserve their high profile because they score the goals that win the big matches – like in the Germany friendly. Beating the World Cup runners-up is always an achievement, especially in front of their own fans. The flip side for attackers is that when things go wrong they are also the first to get the blame.

Remembering Italian fans' reaction after the World Cup fiasco, don't you think you have come a long way in a year?
True, but I'm not the sort to do my dirty washing in public. The players were to blame in Korea and I always admitted that. OK, there were issues about injuries and substitutions but it was dishonest to heap all the blame on [coach Giovanni] Trapattoni. If a coach gets his team selection wrong then I'm the first to say so. But that was not the case in Korea.

What are your realistic targets for the season ahead?
The same as ever: to win everything again. It may sound naive but it's true. It's no good starting a season thinking that you are going to lose some matches. That's not a professional attitude. Anyway, I really don't see why we shouldn't win everything. Last season we won the League and reached the Champions League Final. Just a little more luck and we would have won both. So we can do it. It's within reach.

Have you put the Champions League Final defeat behind you?
You can't wipe a defeat like that out of your mind. The sense of disappointment was enormous. The only positive thing is that it makes you appreciate winning much more. For example, the Italian Supercup may not be the greatest trophy in the world but it's something positive to start the season from a psychological point of view – even if we did it on penalties. It was also important for us to prove we can beat Milan in one-off matches.

But presumably you would still prefer to have won the penalty shoot-out in Manchester last May?
I would have preferred to have won on penalties in both Manchester and New York. The most ironic thing is that in Manchester I stopped one penalty more than in New York… and we lost. But I didn't come to Juventus to lose anything but to win every competition we enter – Champions League, Italian League, Italian Cup and the Italian Supercup.

You have some new team-mates at Juventus. Who do you rate as the best new signing?
I don't have to choose the team. The coach [Marcello Lippi] does that. He does his job, I do mine. I know players like Fabrizio Miccoli from playing against him last season. All I can say is that I'm glad he is on our side now!

So would you say Juventus are a better side than ever?
Maybe there's just a little way to go yet to reach perfection – but we're working on it! I would even say that anyone who meets us in Europe or in Serie A must beware because we have two teams as good as each other.

Your favourite players?
Paolo Maldini and Michel Platini for outfield players; the Cameroonian Thomas N'Kono and Dino Zoff for goalkeepers. Zoff was not just a player but a footballing monument. When you talk about Italian goalkeepers, his is the only name that matters. He won everything going – he's my inspiration.

'It's no good starting a season thinking you're going to lose some matches. That's not a professional attitude'

No go, Madrid

Lazio's Dutch defender talks to Jeremy Butler

WORLD SOCCER: There seems to have been continuous speculation about you leaving Lazio ever since you arrived at the Olympic stadium. Can you put the record straight?

JAAP STAM: Lazio have said they don't want to let me go, and I'm happy with that. Once I'd played in the Champions League qualifier against Benfica on August 13 I couldn't play in the competition for anyone else, and that tends to cut out Europe's big clubs. So I set that date as a deadline for myself, and decided that if Lazio were still my club then I would stay here for the rest of my contract. That runs for another two years and then I intend to return to Holland and see if a club wants me there. I have been abroad for a long time now and I'm keen to play out my career in my own country.

Was it true you turned down the chance to join Real Madrid in the summer?

They asked about me, and I like the club, but I want to play another two years and I don't think they wanted to give me a two-year contract. I didn't want to go to another country for one year as my wife is about to have twins and it was too much upheaval.

Lazio were the surprise package last season in the race for the Serie A title even though players like Alessandro Nesta and Hernan Crespo had been sold. How do you think the club will fare this season?

Even though people left we still had a strong team and did well. We gave away some silly points and if we hadn't we would have finished higher than fourth. We haven't brought in a lot of players this time, although we were looking for maybe a big-name player to lift the supporters. Sometimes, though, having a team that isn't full of big names means you get by on a lot of spirit. That will certainly help us this season.

You played most of last season at right-back even though your reputation is as a central defender. Where will you play this season?

Back at centre-half and I'm looking forward to it. The reason I played right-back last year was basically that I was the only one who could play there. But I'm much more comfortable in the centre.

Holland seem set to qualify for Euro 2004. Do you think the finals will be your international swansong?

Yes, I do. I'm still enjoying international football and I will definitely play in Euro 2004 if Holland get there. Once that is over, though, it should be the end of the international game for me as I don't expect to be playing at that level when the next World Cup comes around.

Many people believe you were forced out of Manchester United because of your autobiography. Do you have any regrets?

People keep asking me that but at no time have I had any regrets. When I left I was happy with the decision I made with my family, and since then I have never looked back. I still support Manchester United, as I always have, but that chapter of my life is now closed.

Were you surprised David Beckham left Old Trafford for Real Madrid?

Well, I was surprised he left Manchester United, but where do you go from there? There aren't many better places to go to than Real Madrid. I thought he would never leave United but then I did read his relationship with Alex Ferguson was not the best and he was not so happy in his last few months there. So maybe David wanted to leave himself, but I was a little shocked it happened. He's been on television a lot in Italy since then and that just goes to show how big a star he is. He's gone to maybe the best team in the world at the moment. They have fantastic players, and even though they didn't reach the Champions League Final last season, people will still be looking up to them.

Best foot forward...Jaap Stam (right) will be back at the centre of Lazio's defence this season

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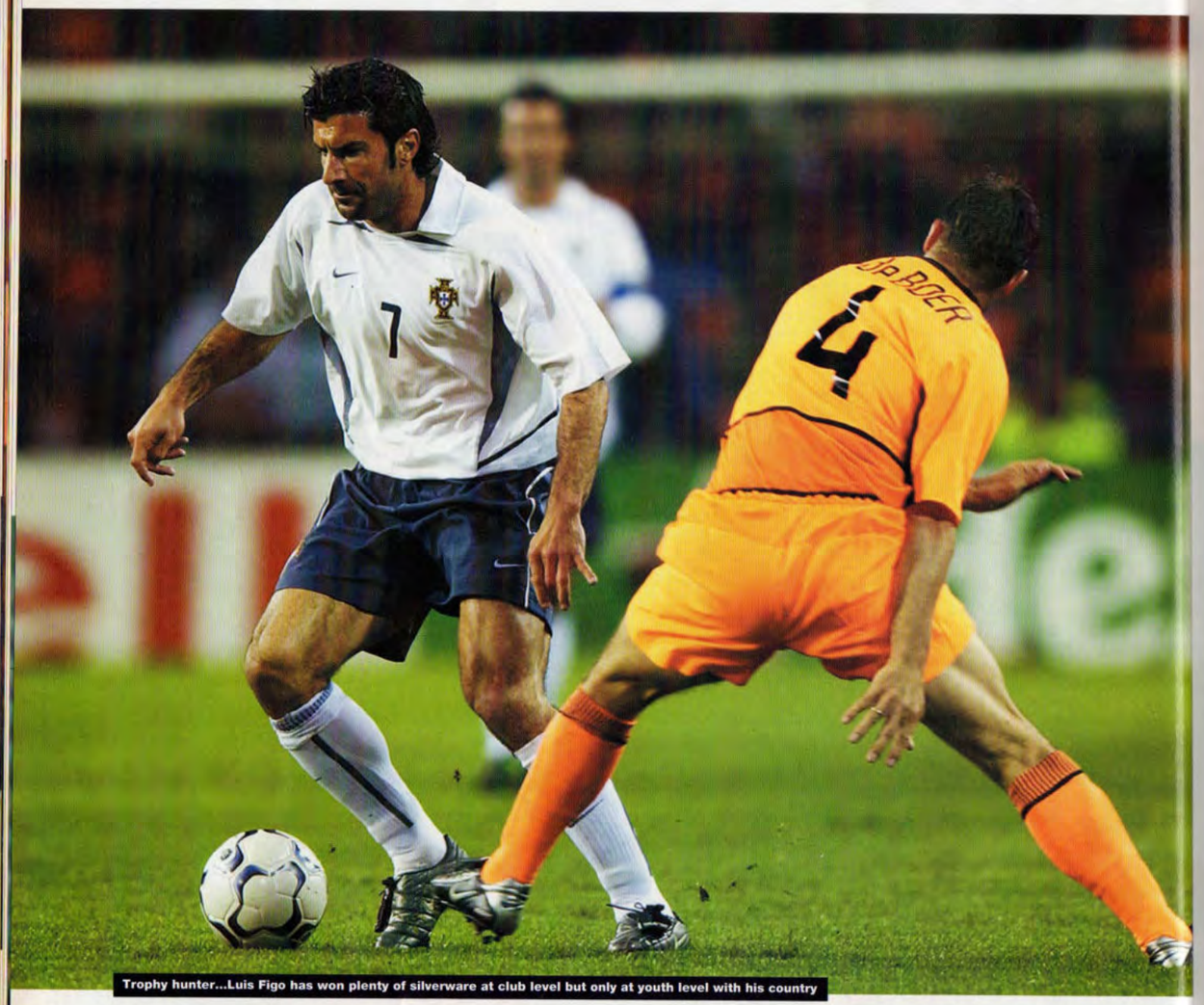

Trophy hunter...Luis Figo has won plenty of silverware at club level but only at youth level with his country

Portugal expects

The hosts have next year's Final in their sights. Pedro Pinto reports

AFTER A DISASTROUS World Cup campaign, the winds of change blew swiftly over the Portuguese national team. Out went coach Antonio Oliveira, whose questionable tactics contributed to the debacle in Asia, and in waltzed World Cup-winner Luiz Felipe Scolari, a man promptly charged with the quest of turning Portugal into major contenders for the Euro 2004 title.

The Brazilian may have arrived with an impressive curriculum vitae but it did not guarantee him immediate approval. Many were reluctant to see a foreign manager take the reins of the national team for the first time since 1966. Scolari quickly tried to assimilate, a task made easier by the fact he speaks the language, albeit with an accent. His first promises were to learn the national anthem and restore pride in the national team.

In order to do this, changes were needed, and they quickly arrived. The early scapegoats for the Korean disaster were goalkeeper Vitor Baia and forward Joao Pinto. Although regulars in the past, they suddenly found themselves out of the mix. The exclusion of Baia has been particularly controversial in the north of the country – volatile FC Porto president Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa has repeatedly condemned it, even going as far as to accuse Scolari of trying to trick the Portuguese public.

However, don't expect this pressure to affect Big Phil. After all, this is the man who refused to take Romario to the 2002 World Cup despite the public outcry in Brazil for him to do so.

The only pressure Scolari seems to accept is the one for success. To say the public's expectations are high for next year's Euro championship is a massive understatement. The Portuguese people expect, or better yet demand, that their team make at least the Final of the competition. Scolari is aware of this hope, and embraces it, stating as much in one of his first press conferences.

Golden oldies

But how will this be accomplished? Portugal has seen its so-called 'golden generation' age without lifting a single senior trophy. Players like Luis Figo and Rui Costa, who led the nation to two world youth titles, have won plenty of silverware with their clubs, but have failed to do the same when wearing their country's colours.

Scolari's plan is to mix the old guard with the new, and create a team spirit that can make the side stronger in the face of adversity. Insiders in Brazil say this was the key to success at the World Cup, where his time spent together with the squad helped resolve certain problems the team had exhibited in qualifying.

Scolari can look at Portugal's new guard with a smile. A new crop of players has turned heads around Europe, with teenagers Ricardo Quaresma and Cristiano Ronaldo earning big-money moves to Barcelona and Manchester United respectively. The two former Sporting Lisbon wingers have plenty to offer in the way of skill and pace, and with the right coaching could yet play an important part in the tournament. Their chances are even better given that Sergio Conceicao has struggled to regain his confidence following a poor season with Internazionale.

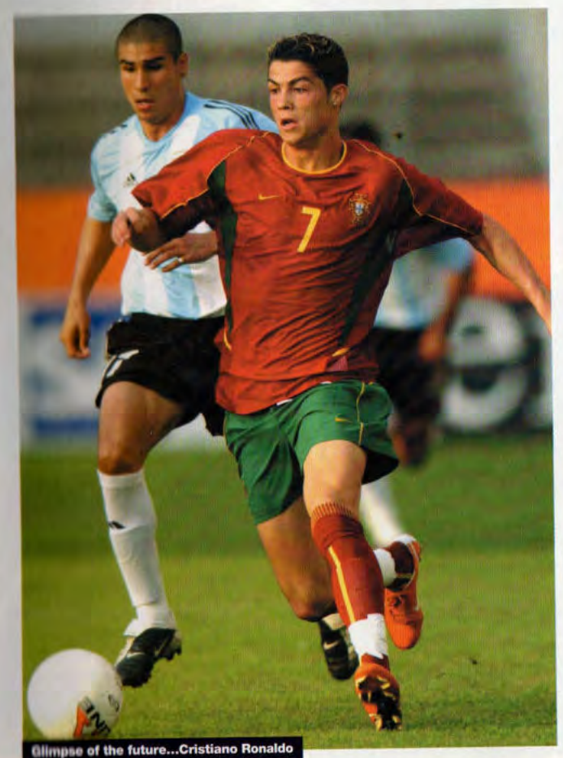
But Quaresma and Ronaldo aren't the only youngsters in contention for a first-team place. Maniche, Porto's influential midfielder, has all the qualities necessary to become the player Portugal need to serve as a link between Costinha and Rui Costa. Hugo Viana also has the pedigree necessary to challenge for a spot, either in midfield or on the left wing, and Benfica's goalscoring midfielder Tiago should not be ignored either.

Up front, Helder Postiga offers Scolari a valid option when Pauleta misfires, which has been the case in recent friendlies, and at the back, Miguel and Nuno Valente could easily dethrone Frechaut and Rui Jorge on either side of defence.

With a variety of jigsaw pieces at his disposal, Scolari's task is finding the right place to put them in order to build a complete picture. So far, his experimentation with different formations has yielded mixed results. Poor performances against Kazakhstan and Spain have left the public wondering whether he will ever get it right. The failure to score more than one goal against the Kazakhs deeply frustrated not only the fans but federation officials as well.

The following 3-0 home defeat by Spain revealed worrying weaknesses that maybe even Scolari was unaware his team had. One that should be addressed is the side's apparent inability to create chances. A lack of linking play has left Rui Costa and Figo starved of the ball.

So, maybe Scolari needs a new formation. Then again, maybe he just needs to perfect his current tactical scheme. These are possibilities he has plenty of time to consider since his first real test will only arrive when Euro 2004 kicks off in June next year.


Glimpse of the future...Cristiano Ronaldo

THE SQUAD

	CLUB	DOB	CAPS	GLS
GOALKEEPERS				
BRUNO VALE	FC Porto	08.04.83	1	0
QUIM	Sporting Braga	13.11.75	17	0
RICARDO	Sporting Lisbon	11.02.76	20	0
DEFENDERS				
BETO	Sporting Lisbon	03.05.76	23	2
FERNANDO COUTO	Lazio (Ita)	02.08.69	98	7
FERNANDO MEIRA	Stuttgart (Ger)	05.06.78	18	0
FRECHAUT	Boavista	24.09.77	12	0
JORGE ANDRADE	Dep La Coruna (Spa)	09.04.78	13	2
MIGUEL	Benfica	04.01.80	5	0
NUNO VALENTE	FC Porto	12.09.74	6	0
PAULO FERREIRA	FC Porto	18.01.79	7	0
RICARDO ROCHA	Benfica	03.10.78	2	0
ROGERIO MATIAS	Guimaraes	22.10.74	2	0
RUI JORGE	Sporting Lisbon	27.03.73	35	1
MIDFIELDERS				
COSTINHA	FC Porto	01.12.74	16	2
DECO	FC Porto	27.08.77	6	1
Luis FIGO	Real Madrid (Spa)	04.11.72	95	28
HUGO VIANA	Newcastle (Eng)	15.01.83	9	0
MANICHE	FC Porto	11.11.77	7	0
PEDRO MENDES	FC Porto	26.02.79	2	0
RICARDO QUARESMA	Barcelona (Spa)	26.09.83	1	0
RUI COSTA	Milan (Ita)	29.03.72	81	22
SERGIO CONCEICAO	Lazio (Ita)	15.11.74	56	12
TIAGO	Benfica	02.05.81	4	0
FORWARDS				
Luis BOA MORTE	Fulham (Eng)	04.08.77	8	1
CRISTIANO RONALDO	Man Utd (Eng)	05.02.85	1	0
HELDER POSTIGA	Tottenham (Eng)	02.08.82	4	2
NUNO GOMES	Benfica	05.07.76	35	14
Pedro PAULETA	Paris SG (Fra)	28.04.73	48	20
SIMAO Sabrosa	Benfica	31.10.79	20	3

Caps and goals up to and including Portugal v Spain (06.09.03)

Back to their best

After their World Cup disaster, Les Bleus are singing again. Nick Bidwell reports

THOSE WHO CONSIDERED France's early exit from the last World Cup as a temporary blip caused by fatigue and injury to Zinedine Zidane stand vindicated to a large extent.

Always in command of Euro 2004 qualifying Group 1, beaten just once in 14 games last term – a 2-0 friendly defeat at home to the Czech Republic in February – and victorious on home soil in the Confederations Cup, the French have shown many signs of being back to their imperious best during recent months. Quite rightly, they have been made favourites to retain their European title next summer.

Sceptics will claim that France's route to Euro 2004 was never likely to be barred by the likes of Slovenia, Israel, Cyprus and Malta. Yet *Les Bleus* deserve some credit, remaining unscathed while established nations such as Italy, England, Spain and Germany all dropped points to supposedly lesser lights.

"The players have shown great professionalism all through the qualifiers," said coach Jacques Santini, the ex-Lyon boss who took over from the irreparably-damaged Roger Lemerre in the wake of France's dismal displays at World Cup 2002.

"It's a real source of satisfaction for me. Since starting this job, it's been a gradual process. Over the first few months we put down the foundations, after Christmas we built the first floor, and we intend to put on the roof in Portugal in June next year."

Into the danger zone...fearless Olivier Kapo is one of the new generation of midfielders Santini has at his disposal

Still the best...Fabien Barthez

Common sense

Indeed, Santini has proved a more than capable architect. With the entire French footballing establishment shell-shocked following their World Cup humiliation, his low-key, common sense approach to the job was just what the doctor ordered.

His mantra of picking only those players in form and 100 per cent fit sent out a clear message to anyone assuming they were guaranteed a place in the starting line-up; players would exclusively be used in their club positions; while, vitally, he ordered a tactical rethink, the rigid 4-2-3-1 etched on stone by Lemerre being put aside in favour of 4-4-2, the system favoured by the vast majority of the French squad.

No longer would the team's most potent goalscoring threat, Thierry Henry, be wasted in a slightly withdrawn role on the left flank. Under Santini, he would be stationed in his preferred central striking zone and the Arsenal ace showed his appreciation by notching 10 international goals last season.

"The attacking set-up we used at the World Cup did not do us any favours," argues Henry's usual strike partner, David Trezeguet, who will be hoping for an injury-free 2003-04 after a lengthy period of knee trouble. "For an attacker it's always better with someone at your side. We can cause all sorts of problems to defences, and that wasn't the case in South Korea."

In matters of selection, Santini has succeeded in performing a delicate balancing act. While keeping faith with the old guard – two-thirds of France's World Cup 2002 party remain pivotal to his plans – he has also refreshed the squad with a host of bright new faces.

Chelsea's William Gallas settled in superbly in central defence alongside skipper Marcel Desailly; the Auxerre trio of central defenders Philippe Mexes and Jean-Alain Boumsong and midfielder Olivier Kapo all bear the 'Made in Burgundy' hallmark of quality; left-sided Monaco midfielder Jerome Rothen is an exciting package of high energy and precision crossing; Benoit Pedretti of Sochaux represents an excellent alternative to Patrick Vieira and Claude Makelele in the engine-room; and Sidney Govou of Lyon has ability and pace to burn.

"The youngsters who have come in have given us freshness and verve," says Santini. "Now I have a group of 30 players I can truly rely on. We will not be stepping into the unknown with them."

There are, however, problems for Santini to ponder. France were very slow out of the blocks in a number of games last season, at times their play was too predictable, and the lack of adequate cover for midfield general Zidane is a worry. Without the craft and imagination of 'Zizou', France are not remotely the same force, and Santini can only hope he is fit for the tests that await in Portugal.

New approach...Jacques Santini

Another headache for Santini is first-choice keeper Fabien Barthez, whose future at Manchester United is bleak. In a nine-year international career, Barthez has rarely let France down and looked sharp in the recent 2-0 friendly win in Switzerland. But Santini's insistence that he will not pick players who are not first choices at club level is no idle threat. Even stalwarts such as Desailly and Bixente Lizarazu were left out last season due to a lack of match practice.

The French find themselves on the horns of a dilemma. Whatever Sir Alex Ferguson thinks, Barthez comfortably remains the best French keeper in circulation. Lyon's Gregory Coupet, Ulrich Rame of Bordeaux and Mickael Landreau of Nantes are simply not in the same league.

Fortunately, competition for other positions is much more intense, a fact well illustrated by the make-up of their bench for the Switzerland friendly. Any team with reserves of the calibre of Bayern Munich full-back Willy Sagnol, brilliant Arsenal midfielder Robert Pires and Auxerre whizzkid striker Djibril Cisse has plenty going for it.

THE SQUAD

	CLUB	DOB	CAPS	GLS
GOALKEEPERS				
Fabien BARTHEZ	Man Utd (Eng)	28.06.71	59	0
Gregory COUPET	Lyon	31.12.72	5	0
Mickael LANDREAU	Nantes	14.05.79	2	0
Ulrich RAME	Bordeaux	19.09.72	11	0
DEFENDERS				
Jean-Alain BOUMSONG	Auxerre	14.12.79	2	0
Marcel DESAILLY	Chelsea (Eng)	07.09.68	108	3
William GALLAS	Chelsea (Eng)	17.08.77	10	0
Bixente LIZARAZU	Bayern Munich (Ger)	09.12.69	85	2
Philippe MEXES	Auxerre	30.03.82	5	0
Willy SAGNOL	Bayern Munich (Ger)	18.03.77	17	0
Mickael SILVESTRE	Man Utd (Eng)	09.08.77	23	2
Lilian THURAM	Juventus (Ita)	01.01.72	90	2
MIDFIELDERS				
Eric CARRIERE	Lyon	24.05.73	10	5
Ousmane DABO	Lazio (Ita)	08.02.77	3	0
Olivier DACOURT	Roma (Ita)	25.09.74	10	0
Ludovic GIULY	Monaco	10.07.76	8	1
Olivier KAPO	Auxerre	27.09.80	7	3
Claude MAKELELE	Chelsea (Eng)	18.02.73	24	0
Benoit PEDRETTI	Sochaux	12.11.80	10	0
Robert PIRES	Arsenal (Eng)	29.01.73	61	13
Jerome ROTHEN	Monaco	31.03.78	3	0
Patrick VIEIRA	Arsenal (Eng)	23.06.76	62	4
Zinedine ZIDANE	Real Madrid (Spa)	23.06.72	82	22
FORWARDS				
Djibril CISSE	Auxerre	12.08.81	15	3
Sidney GOVOU	Lyon	27.07.79	8	2
Thierry HENRY	Arsenal (Eng)	17.08.77	51	22
Steve MARLET	Marseille	10.01.74	18	5
Daniel MOREIRA	Lens	08.08.77	2	0
David TREZEGUET	Juventus (Ita)	15.10.77	43	19
Sylvain WILTORD	Arsenal (Eng)	10.05.74	56	18

Caps and goals up to and including France v Switzerland (20.08.03)

The dash for cash

On their way...Chelsea score against Zilina at Stamford Bridge

Keir Radnedge reviews the qualifying rounds

THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE draw was all about the big names: Milan, Real Madrid, Juventus, Manchester United and the unknown power that is the new, Russian oil and gas-fired Chelsea.

Yet the competition did not begin with the group draw on August 28 but back in the summer haze of July 16. Only 49 days after Andrii Shevchenko converted the penalty that won last season's Final for Milan, the opening goal was being struck in the 2003-04 campaign.

Levan Melkadze of Georgian champions Dinamo Tbilisi was the marksman after six minutes of a 3-0 win over SK Tirana in the first leg of the first qualifying round.

One snag for Melkadze: no fans were there to celebrate since the match had to be played behind closed doors as punishment for bottle-throwing incidents during Dinamo's UEFA Cup first round tie against Slovan Liberec last season. Georgi Anchabadze and Vitali Daraselia (penalty) scored the other Dinamo goals against Tirana, for whom Indrit Fortuzi missed from the spot on the hour.

Tirana learned their penalty lesson decisively, however. Goals from Suat Lici (13), Fortuzi (63) and Mahir Halili (80) brought them a turnover 3-0 win of their own back in Albania and they then carried the tie 4-2 in the shoot-out.

The increasingly cosmopolitan nature of the game in even eastern Europe in the ongoing fallout from both the Bosman ruling and fall of the Berlin Wall was evident in Vardar Skopje's success over Barry. Brazilian imports scored in both legs of their 4-2 aggregate win. Wandair Dos Santos struck twice in the 3-0 first leg victory (along with Dejan Ristovski) with Oliveira Da Costa grabbing another in the return.

The two Irelands had mixed fortunes. Glentoran from the North lost 1-0 overall to HJK Helsinki, for whom Juho Makela broke the deadlock in the second leg in Finland. But the Republic's Bohemians beat BATE Borisov of Belarus comfortably. Bohemians lost 1-0 away then won 3-0 in Dublin thanks to goals by Stephen Caffrey after 37 minutes, Bobby Ryan (45) and Glen Crowe (58).

Celebrations did not last long for most of the initial winners. In the second qualifying round HJK fell 3-2 overall to Hungary's MTK, FBK Kaunas collapsed 5-0 to Celtic – for whom Henrik Larsson was instantly back among the goals after last season's UEFA Cup exploits – and Sliema were thrashed 10-1 on aggregate by FC Copenhagen.

By now the likes of Rosenborg, Dinamo Zagreb, Anderlecht and Partizan Belgrade had also joined the fray. Partizan were the only strugglers, needing the away goals rule to edge them past Djurgardens of Sweden.

The third qualifying round introduced further heavyweights. Top of the bill was the meeting of Lazio and Benfica. The cash-strapped Italians, last winners of the defunct Cup-winners Cup, ended up in credit on the pitch thanks to a 4-1 overall success built on a 3-1 first leg win with strikes from Bernardo Corradi, Stefano Fiore and veteran Sinisa Mihajlovic.

Benfica were joined in the UEFA Cup 'relegation' zone by Borussia Dortmund, whose response to their defeat by Club Brugge was a demand that their players take a 20 per cent pay cut. Such a fate happily eluded the stars of other former European champions such as Celtic, Ajax and Marseille.

Celtic won easily by 5-0 against MTK, though Ajax needed a late Wesley Sneijder goal to scrape a 1-1 draw away to Grazer AK before winning 2-1 on the silver goal rule back in Amsterdam. Marseille, trying to clean up their scandal-tarnished image from a decade ago, edged into the group stages by winning 1-0 away to Austria Wien and holding on goalless at home. Russia talent Dmitri Sychev surprised the Austrians decisively after only four minutes in Vienna.

Newcastle debacle

Former UEFA/Fairs Cup winners in the frame were Turkey's Galatasaray, Belgium's Anderlecht and England's Newcastle United. Galatasaray crushed CSKA Sofia 3-0 both home and away while Anderlecht were also two-leg winners against Wisla Krakow by 3-1 and 1-0. But Newcastle fouled up badly, winning 1-0 away to Partizan then losing by the same margin and then on penalties in front of their own St James' Park faithful. Former England skipper Alan Shearer was among Newcastle's shoot-out culprits.

Chelsea had no such problems after their own trip to eastern Europe, however. Billionaire Roman Abramovich's new-look, high-cost team marked his 'competitive debut' with 2-0 and 3-0 wins against Zilina. Eidur Gudjohnsen scored the first goal of the Roman conquest three minutes from half-time in the first leg in Slovakia.

Two other former winners of the Cup-winners Cup to progress were Kyiv Dynamo (5-1 overall v Dinamo Zagreb) and Scotland's Rangers. Alex McLeish's men did well to win 2-1 away to FC Copenhagen after being held 1-1 initially at Ibrox. The Danes slipped into the UEFA Cup along with northern Nordic neighbours Rosenborg. The perennial Norwegian champions lost 1-0 on aggregate to Deportivo La Coruna.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUPS

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
BAYERN MUNICH (GER)	ARSENAL (ENG)	DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA (SPA)	JUVENTUS (ITA)
LYON (FRA)	INTERNAZIONALE (ITA)	PSV EINDHOVEN (HOL)	GALATASARAY (TUR)
CELTIC (SCO)	KYIV DYNAMO (UKR)	AEK ATHENS (GRE)	OLYMPIAKOS (GRE)
ANDERLECHT (BLG)	LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW (RUS)	MONACO (FRA)	REAL SOCIEDAD (SPA)

GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
MANCHESTER UNITED (ENG)	REAL MADRID (SPA)	LAZIO (ITA)	MILAN (ITA)
PANATHINAIKOS (GRE)	FC PORTO (POR)	CHELSEA (ENG)	CELTA VIGO (SPA)
RANGERS (SCO)	MARSEILLE (FRA)	SPARTA PRAGUE (CZE)	AJAX (HOL)
STUTTGART (GER)	PARTIZAN BELGRADE (SER)	BESIKTAS (TUR)	CLUB BRUGGE (BLG)

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Sep 17	**Sep 17**	**Sep 17**	**Sep 17**
Lyon v Anderlecht	Kyiv Dynamo v Lokomotiv Moscow	AEK v Deportivo	Juventus v Galatasaray
Bayern Munich v Celtic	Arsenal v Internazionale	PSV v Monaco	Real Sociedad v Olympiakos
Sep 30	**Sep 30**	**Sep 30**	**Sep 30**
Celtic v Lyon	Internazionale v Kyiv Dynamo	Monaco v AEK	Olympiakos v Juventus
Anderlecht v Bayern Munich	Lokomotiv Moscow v Arsenal	Deportivo v PSV	Galatasaray v Real Sociedad
Oct 21	**Oct 21**	**Oct 21**	**Oct 21**
Anderlecht v Celtic	Lokomotiv Moscow v Internazionale	Deportivo v Monaco	Galatasaray v Olympiakos
Lyon v Bayern Munich	Kyiv Dynamo v Arsenal	AEK v PSV	Juventus v Real Sociedad
Nov 5	**Nov 5**	**Nov 5**	**Nov 5**
Celtic v Anderlecht	Internazionale v Lokomotiv Moscow	Monaco v Deportivo	Olympiakos v Galatasaray
Bayern Munich v Lyon	Arsenal v Kyiv Dynamo	PSV v AEK	Real Sociedad v Juventus
Nov 25	**Nov 25**	**Nov 25**	**Nov 25**
Anderlecht v Lyon	Lokomotiv Moscow v Kyiv Dynamo	Deportivo v AEK	Galatasaray v Juventus
Celtic v Bayern Munich	Internazionale v Arsenal	Monaco v PSV	Olympiakos v Real Sociedad
Dec 10	**Dec 10**	**Dec 10**	**Dec 10**
Lyon v Celtic	Kyiv Dynamo v Internazionale	AEK v Monaco	Juventus v Olympiakos
Bayern Munich v Anderlecht	Arsenal v Lokomotiv Moscow	PSV v Deportivo	Real Sociedad v Galatasaray

GROUP E	GROUP F	GROUP G	GROUP H
Sep 16	**Sep 16**	**Sep 16**	**Sep 16**
Rangers v Stuttgart	Real Madrid v Marseille	Sparta Prague v Chelsea	Milan v Ajax
Manchester United v Panathinaikos	Partizan Belgrade v FC Porto	Besiktas v Lazio	Club Brugge v Celta Vigo
Oct 1	**Oct 1**	**Oct 1**	**Oct 1**
Panathinaikos v Rangers	FC Porto v Real Madrid	Lazio v Sparta Prague	Celta Vigo v Milan
Stuttgart v Manchester United	Marseille v Partizan Belgrade	Chelsea v Besiktas	Ajax v Club Brugge
Oct 22	**Oct 22**	**Oct 22**	**Oct 22**
Stuttgart v Panathinaikos	Marseille v FC Porto	Chelsea v Lazio	Ajax v Celta Vigo
Rangers v Manchester United	Real Madrid v Partizan Belgrade	Sparta Prague v Besiktas	Milan v Club Brugge
Nov 4	**Nov 4**	**Nov 4**	**Nov 4**
Panathinaikos v Stuttgart	FC Porto v Marseille	Lazio v Chelsea	Celta Vigo v Ajax
Manchester United v Rangers	Partizan Belgrade v Real Madrid	Besiktas v Sparta Prague	Club Brugge v Milan
Nov 26	**Nov 26**	**Nov 26**	**Nov 26**
Stuttgart v Rangers	Marseille v Real Madrid	Chelsea v Sparta Prague	Ajax v Milan
Panathinaikos v Manchester United	FC Porto v Partizan Belgrade	Lazio v Besiktas	Celta Vigo v Club Brugge
Dec 9	**Dec 9**	**Dec 9**	**Dec 9**
Rangers v Panathinaikos	Real Madrid v FC Porto	Sparta Prague v Lazio	Milan v Celta Vigo
Manchester United v Stuttgart	Partizan Belgrade v Marseille	Besiktas v Chelsea	Club Brugge v Ajax

AEK ATHENS

Goalkeepers
22 Dionisios CHIOTIS 04.06.77
12 Sotiris LIMBEROPOULOS 26.06.77
1 Chrisostomos MIHAILIDIS 15.01.75

Defenders
19 Kofi AMPONSAH (Gha) 23.04.78
2 Vassilios BORBOKIS 10.02.69
16 Nikolaos GEORGEAS 27.12.76
32 Mihalis KAPSIS 18.10.73
17 Mihalis KASAPIS 06.06.71
5 Nikolaos KOSTENOGLOU 03.10.70
8 Michel KREEK (Hol) 16.01.71
18 Evangelos MORAS 26.08.81

Midfielders
31 Grigorios GEORGATOS 31.10.72
21 Konstantinos KATSOURANIS 21.06.79
23 Vassilios LAKIS 10.09.76
7 Christos MALADENIS 23.05.74
3 Milen PETKOV (Bul) 12.01.74
14 Ivan RUSEV (Bul) 10.05.79
10 Vassilios TSARTAS 12.11.72
6 Theodoros ZAGORAKIS 27.10.71

Forwards
30 Ilija IVIC (Ser) 17.02.71
20 Sotirios KONSTANTINIDIS 19.04.77
33 Nikos LIMBEROPOULOS 04.08.75
88 Dimitrios NALITZIS 25.01.76
9 Yiannis OKKAS (Cyp) 11.02.77

AJAX

Goalkeepers
31 Sander BOSCHKER 20.10.70
1 Bogdan LOBONT (Rom) 18.01.78
21 Maarten STEKELENBURG 22.09.82

Defenders
23 Zdenek GRYGERA (Cze) 14.05.80
5 John O'BRIEN (USA) 29.08.77
3 Petri PASANEN (Fin) 24.09.80
2 Hatem TRABELSI (Tun) 25.01.77
14 Jelle VAN DAMME (Blg) 10.10.83
34 WALKER (Bra) 15.02.82
22 Abubakari YAKUBU (Gha) 13.12.81

Midfielders
4 Julien ESCUDE (Fra) 17.08.79
6 Tomas GALASEK (Cze) 15.01.73
20 Jari LITMANEN (Fin) 20.02.71
15 MAXWELL (Bra) 27.08.81
26 Anthony OBODAI (Gha) 06.08.82
8 Steven PIENAAR (SAf) 17.03.82
18 Wesley SNEIJDER 09.06.84

Forwards
28 Nourdin BOUKHARI 30.06.80
9 Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe) 03.10.81
29 Nicolae MITEA (Rom) 24.03.85
11 Victor SIKORA 11.04.78
7 Tom SOETAERS (Blg) 21.07.80
19 Wesley SONCK (Blg) 09.08.78
27 Cedric VAN DER GUN 05.05.79
17 WAMBERTO (Bra) 13.12.74

ANDERLECHT

Goalkeepers
24 Tristan PEERSMAN 28.09.79
25 Jan VAN STEENBERGHE 04.07.72
1 Daniel ZITKA (Cze) 20.06.75

Defenders
5 Glen DE BOECK 22.08.71
3 Olivier DESCHACHT 16.02.81
12 Olivier DOLL 09.06.73
33 Sergio HELLINGS (Hol) 11.10.84
14 Marc HENDRIKX 02.07.74
2 Aleksandar ILIC 26.06.69
30 Hannu TIHINEN (Fin) 01.07.76
6 Michal ZEWLAKOW (Pol) 22.04.76

Midfielders
10 Walter BASEGGIO 19.08.78
28 Anatoli GERK (Rus) 20.11.84
15 Besnik HASI (Alb) 29.12.71
11 Martin KOLAR (Cze) 18.09.83
7 Goran LOVRE (Ser) 23.03.82
19 Ivica MORNAR (Cro) 12.01.74
4 Yves VANDERHAEGHE 30.01.70
17 Christian WILHELMSSON (Swe) 08.12.79
21 Par ZETTERBERG (Swe) 14.10.70

Forwards
29 Denis CALENCOV (Mol) 15.09.85
26 Aruna DINDANE (IvC) 26.11.80
22 Oleg IACHTCHOUK (Ukr) 26.10.77
35 Sherjill MACDONALD (Hol) 20.11.84
18 SEOL Ki-hyeon (SKo) 08.01.79
9 Clayton ZANE (Aus) 12.07.77

ARSENAL

Goalkeepers
1 Jens LEHMANN (Ger) 10.11.69
24 Rami SHAABAN (Swe) 30.06.75
33 Graham STACK (Ire) 26.09.81
13 Stuart TAYLOR 28.11.80

Defenders
23 Sol CAMPBELL 18.09.74
22 Gael CLICHY (Fra) 26.07.85
3 Ashley COLE 20.12.80
18 Pascal CYGAN (Fra) 29.04.74
5 Martin KEOWN 24.07.66
12 LAUREN (Cam) 19.01.77
20 Philippe SENDEROS (Swi) 14.02.85
27 Stathis TAVLARIDIS (Gre) 25.01.80

Midfielders
17 EDU (Bra) 16.05.78
19 GILBERTO SILVA (Bra) 07.10.76
8 Fredrik LJUNGBERG (Swe) 16.04.77
15 Ray PARLOUR 07.03.73
7 Robert PIRES (Fra) 29.01.73
28 Kolo TOURE (IvC) 19.03.81
4 Patrick VIEIRA (Fra) 23.06.76

Forwards
10 Dennis BERGKAMP (Hol) 10.05.69
14 Thierry HENRY (Fra) 17.08.77
25 Nwankwo KANU (Nig) 01.08.76
32 Michal PAPADOPULOS (Cze) 14.04.85
11 Sylvain WILTORD (Fra) 10.05.74

BAYERN MUNICH

Goalkeepers
29 Bernd DREHER 02.11.66
1 Oliver KAHN 15.06.69

Defenders
6 Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg) 20.12.80
5 Robert KOVAC (Cro) 06.04.74
4 Samuel KUFFOUR (Gha) 03.09.76
25 Thomas LINKE 26.12.69
3 Bixente LIZARAZU (Fra) 09.12.69
15 Tobias RAU 31.12.81
2 Willy SAGNOL (Fra) 18.03.77

Midfielders
13 Michael BALLACK 26.09.76
26 Sebastian DEISLER 05.01.80
17 Thorsten FINK 29.10.67
16 Jens JEREMIES 05.03.74
23 Owen HARGREAVES (Eng) 20.01.81
20 Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos) 01.01.77
7 Mehmet SCHOLL 16.10.70
11 ZE ROBERTO (Bra) 06.07.74

Forwards
33 Jose Paolo GUERRERO (Per) 01.01.84
10 Roy MAKAAY (Hol) 09.03.75
14 Claudio PIZARRO (Per) 03.10.78
24 Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par) 16.08.81
21 Alexander ZICKLER 28.02.74

BESIKTAS

Goalkeepers
1 Oscar CORDOBA (Col) 03.02.70
22 RAMAZAN Kursunlu 07.07.81
32 Nuvit YASIN Yildiz 30.09.80

Defenders
2 EMRE Asik 13.12.73
55 GOKHAN Zan 07.09.81
19 IBRAHIM Uzulmez 10.03.74
5 RONALDO Guiaro (Bra) 18.02.74
30 ZAGO (Bra) 18.05.69

Midfielders
4 AHMET Yildirim 25.04.74
20 Federico GIUNTI (Ita) 06.08.71
77 Ahmed HASSAN (Egy) 02.05.75
17 KAAN DOBRA (Pol) 14.03.72
71 OKAN Koc 22.01.82
21 SERDAR Ozkan 01.01.87
41 SERDAR Topraktepe 25.08.76
10 SERGEN Yalcin 05.10.72
3 TAYFUR Havutcu 23.04.70
67 TUMER Metin 14.10.74
14 UMIT Aydin 16.01.80
6 YASIN Sulun 17.12.77

Forwards
7 AHMET Dursun 25.01.78
26 ILHAN Mansiz 10.08.75
9 Daniel PANCU (Rom) 17.08.77
11 SINAN Kaloglu 10.06.81

CELTA VIGO

Goalkeepers
1 Pablo CAVALLERO (Arg) 13.04.74
13 Jose Manuel PINTO 08.11.75

Defenders
6 Eduardo BERIZZO (Arg) 13.11.69
4 Fernando CACERES (Arg) 07.02.69
15 Pablo CONTRERAS (Chl) 11.09.78
14 JUANFRAN 15.07.76
12 MANOLO 27.09.76
17 Sebastian MENDEZ (Arg) 07.04.77
23 SERGIO Fernandez 23.05.77
3 SILVINHO (Bra) 12.04.74
2 Juan VELASCO 17.05.77

Midfielders
8 ANGEL Lopez 10.03.81
19 EDU (Bra) 10.01.79
5 GIOVANELLA (Bra) 13.09.70
11 Gustavo LOPEZ (Arg) 13.04.73
21 JANDRO 27.02.79
20 JESULI 24.01.78
16 JOSE IGNACIO Saenz 28.09.73
22 Peter LUCCIN (Fra) 09.04.79
10 Alexander MOSTOVOI (Rus) 22.08.68
28 Borja OUBINA 17.05.82
7 VAGNER (Bra) 19.03.73

Forwards
24 CATANHA 06.03.72
9 Savo MILOSEVIC (Ser) 02.09.73

CELTIC

Goalkeepers
20 Robert DOUGLAS 24.04.72
21 Magnus HEDMAN (Swe) 19.03.73

Defenders
6 Bobo BALDE (Fra) 05.10.75
40 Stephen CRAINEY 22.06.81
2 Michael GRAY (Eng) 03.08.74
41 John KENNEDY 18.08.83
16 Ulrik LAURSEN (Den) 28.02.76
5 Joos VALGAEREN (Blg) 03.03.76
23 Stanislav VARGA (Slk) 08.10.72

Midfielders
30 Steve GUPPY (Eng) 29.03.69
14 Paul LAMBERT 07.08.69
18 Neil LENNON (NI) 25.06.71
4 Jackie McNAMARA 24.10.73
35 Johan MJALLBY (Swe) 09.02.71
43 Liam MILLER (Ire) 13.02.81
19 Stilian PETROV (Bul) 05.07.79
15 Bobby PETTA (Hol) 06.08.74
3 Mohamed SYLLA (Fra) 13.03.77
8 Alan THOMPSON (Eng) 22.12.73

Forwards
17 Didier AGATHE (Fra) 16.08.75
37 Craig BEATTIE 16.01.84
12 David FERNANDEZ (Spa) 20.01.76
10 John HARTSON (Wal) 05.04.75
7 Henrik LARSSON (Swe) 20.09.71
29 Shaun MALONEY 24.01.83
39 James SMITH 20.11.80
9 Chris SUTTON (Eng) 10.03.73
33 Ross WALLACE 23.05.85

CHELSEA

Goalkeepers
31 Marco AMBROSIO (Ita) 30.05.73
23 Carlo CUDICINI (Ita) 06.09.73
34 Neil SULLIVAN (Sco) 24.02.70

Defenders
3 Celestine BABAYARO (Nig) 29.08.78
18 Wayne BRIDGE 05.08.80
6 Marcel DESAILLY (Fra) 07.09.68
13 William GALLAS (Fra) 17.08.77
29 Robert HUTH (Ger) 18.08.84
2 Glen JOHNSON 23.08.84
15 Mario MELCHIOT (Hol) 04.11.76
26 John TERRY 07.12.80

Midfielders
10 Joe COLE 08.11.81
11 Damien DUFF (Ire) 02.03.79
14 GEREMI (Cam) 20.12.78
30 Jesper GRONKJAER (Den) 12.08.77
8 Frank LAMPARD 20.06.78
4 Claude MAKELELE (Fra) 18.02.73
27 Alexis NICOLAS (Cyp) 13.02.83
17 Emmanuel PETIT (Fra) 22.09.70
12 Mario STANIC (Cro) 10.04.72
20 Juan Sebastian VERON (Arg) 09.03.75

Forwards
21 Hernan CRESPO (Arg) 05.07.75
28 FILIPE Oliveira (Por) 27.05.84
22 Eidur GUDJOHNSEN (Ice) 15.09.78
9 Jimmy F HASSELBAINK (Hol) 27.03.72
7 Adrian MUTU (Rom) 08.01.79

CLUB BRUGGE

Goalkeepers
13 Tomislav BUTINA (Cro) 30.03.74
23 Stijn STIJNEN 07.04.81
1 Dany VERLINDEN 15.08.63

Defenders
6 Philippe CLEMENT 22.03.74
25 Hans CORNELIS 13.10.82
2 Olivier DE COCK 09.11.75
26 Birger MAERTENS 28.06.80
4 David ROZEHNAL (Cze) 05.07.80
3 Timmy SIMONS 11.12.76
15 Marek SPILAR (Slk) 11.02.75
5 Peter VAN DER HEYDEN 16.07.76

Midfielders
10 Nastja CEH (Sln) 26.01.78
8 Gaetan ENGLEBERT 11.06.76
17 Ivan GVOZDENOVIC (Ser) 19.08.78
16 Serhii SEREBRENNIKOV (Ukr) 01.09.76
20 Alin STOICA (Rom) 10.12.79

Forwards
19 Rune LANGE (Nor) 24.06.77
11 Sandy MARTENS 23.12.72
18 Andres MENDOZA (Per) 26.04.78
9 Bengt SAETERNES (Nor) 01.01.75
28 Josip SIMIC (Cro) 16.09.77
24 Tim SMOLDERS 26.08.80
7 Gert VERHEYEN 20.09.70

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

Goalkeepers
1 Jose MOLINA 08.08.70
13 Gustavo MUNUA (Uru) 27.01.78
25 Jacques SONGO'O (Cam) 17.03.64

Defenders
15 Joan CAPDEVILA 03.02.78
5 CESAR Martin 03.04.77
24 HECTOR Berenguel 11.10.74
14 JORGE ANDRADE (Por) 09.04.78
2 MANUEL PABLO Garcia 25.01.76
4 Nourredine NAYBET (Mor) 10.02.70
20 PABLO AMO 15.01.78
3 Enrique ROMERO 23.06.71
12 Lionel SCALONI (Uru) 16.05.78

Midfielders
16 DJALMINHA (Bra) 09.12.70
23 Aldo DUSCHER (Arg) 22.03.79
10 FRAN 14.07.69
22 JAIME Sanchez 20.03.73
6 MAURO SILVA (Bra) 12.01.68
8 SERGIO Gonzalez 10.11.76
21 Juan VALERON 17.06.75

Forwards
11 Jose AMAVISCA 19.06.71
9 DIEGO TRISTAN 05.01.76
19 Alberto LUQUE 11.03.78
17 Pedro MUNITIS 19.06.75
7 Walter PANDIANI (Uru) 15.04.76
18 VICTOR Sanchez 23.02.76

GALATASARAY

Goalkeepers
12 AYKUT Ercetin 14.09.82
61 MEHMET Boiukbasi 24.08.78
1 Farid MONDRAGON (Col) 21.06.71

Defenders
3 BULENT Korkmaz 24.11.68
29 CESAR PRATES (Bra) 08.02.75
5 Frank DE BOER (Hol) 15.05.70
57 HAKAN Unsal 14.05.73
4 ORHAN Ak 29.09.79
23 SUAT Usta 03.08.81
30 Sebastian TAMAS (Rom) 09.11.83

Midfielders
22 ABDULLAH Ercan 08.12.71
18 AYHAN Akman 23.02.77
19 CIHAN Haspolatli 04.01.80
67 ERGUN Penbe 17.05.72
8 JOAO BATISTA (Bra) 04.03.75
24 Ovidiu PETRE (Rom) 22.03.82
55 SABRI Sarioglu 26.07.84
20 VOLKAN Arslan 29.08.78

Forwards
6 ARIF Erdem 02.01.72
14 Elvir BALJIC (Bos) 08.07.74
7 BERKANT Goktan 12.12.80
17 FABIO PINTO (Bra) 09.10.80
10 HAKAN Sukur 01.09.71
11 HASAN SAS 01.08.76
21 Mabula LUKUNKU (Fra) 14.04.76
9 UMIT Karan 01.10.76

INTERNAZIONALE

Goalkeepers
71 Alex CORDAZ 01.01.83
12 Alberto FONTANA 23.01.67
1 Francesco TOLDO 02.12.71

Defenders
15 Daniele ADANI 10.07.74
31 Jeremie BRECHET (Fra) 14.08.79
17 Fabio CANNAVARO 13.09.73
77 Francesco COCO 08.01.77
2 Ivan CORDOBA (Col) 11.08.76
24 Carlos GAMARRA (Par) 17.02.71
13 Thomas HELVEG (Den) 24.06.71
23 Marco MATERAZZI 19.08.73
4 Javier ZANETTI (Arg) 20.08.73

Midfielders
25 Matias ALMEYDA (Arg) 21.12.73
5 EMRE Belozoglu (Tur) 07.09.80
19 Giorgios KARAGOUNIS (Gre) 06.03.77
18 KILY GONZALEZ (Arg) 04.08.74
8 Sabri LAMOUCHI (Fra) 09.11.71
11 LUCIANO (Bra) 03.12.75
22 OKAN Buruk (Tur) 19.10.73
7 Andy VAN DER MEYDE (Hol) 30.09.79
6 Cristiano ZANETTI 10.04.77

Forwards
9 Julio CRUZ (Arg) 10.10.74
3 Mohamed KALLON (SLe) 06.10.79
20 Alvaro RECOBA (Uru) 17.03.76
32 Christian VIERI 12.07.73

JUVENTUS

Goalkeepers
1 Gianluigi BUFFON 28.01.78
12 Antonio CHIMENTI 30.06.70

Defenders
15 Alessandro BIRINDELLI 12.11.74
2 Ciro FERRARA 11.02.67
6 Salvatore FRESI 18.01.73
13 Mark IULIANO 12.08.73
23 Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE 20.10.76
4 Paolo MONTERO (Uru) 03.09.71
7 Gianluca PESSOTTO 11.08.70
21 Lilian THURAM (Fra) 01.01.72
5 Igor TUDOR (Cro) 16.04.78

Midfielders
18 Stephan APPIAH (Gha) 24.12.80
16 Mauro CAMORANESI 04.10.76
8 Antonio CONTE 31.07.69
26 Edgar DAVIDS (Hol) 13.03.73
14 Enzo MARESCA 10.02.80
11 Pavel NEDVED (Cze) 30.08.72
24 Ruben OLIVERA (Uru) 04.05.83
3 Alessio TACCHINARDI 23.07.75
19 Gianluca ZAMBROTTA 19.02.77

Forwards
10 Alessandro DEL PIERO 09.11.74
20 Marco DI VAIO 15.07.76
9 Fabrizio MICCOLI 27.06.79
17 David TREZEGUET (Fra) 15.10.77
25 Marcelo ZALAYETA (Uru) 05.12.78

KYIV DYNAMO

Goalkeepers
21 Vitalii REVA 19.11.74
1 Olexander SHOVKOVSKYI 02.01.75

Defenders
5 ALESSANDRO (Bra) 10.01.79
6 Yurii DMYTRULIN 10.02.75
3 Serhii FEDOROV 18.02.75
32 Goran GAVRANCIC (Ser) 02.08.78
4 Olexander HOLOVKO 06.01.72
26 Andrii NESMACHNYI 28.02.79
35 Goran SABLIC (Cro) 04.08.79
37 Atanda YUSSUF 04.11.84

Midfielders
10 Florin CERNAT (Rom) 10.03.80
9 Badr EL-KADDOURI (Mor) 31.01.81
17 Tiberiu GHIOANE (Rom) 18.06.81
20 Oleg GUSEV 25.04.83
14 Andrii HUSIN 11.12.72
2 Aleksandr KHATSKEVICH (Bls) 19.10.73
36 Jerko LEKO (Cro) 09.04.80
22 Denys ONYSCHENKO 15.09.78
11 Georgi PEEV (Bul) 11.03.79

Forwards
8 Valentin BIALKEVICH (Bls) 27.01.73
15 DIOGO RINCON (Bra) 18.04.80
7 Olexander MELASCHENKO 13.12.78
25 Artem MILEVSKY 12.01.85
18 Roberto NANNI (Arg) 20.08.81
16 Maxim SHATSKIKH (Uzb) 30.08.78

LAZIO

Goalkeepers
15 Fabrizio CASAZZA 16.09.70
1 Angelo PERUZZI 16.02.70
33 Matteo SERENI 11.02.75

Defenders
8 CESAR (Bra) 24.10.74
2 Francesco COLONNESE 10.08.71
19 Giuseppe FAVALLI 08.01.72
24 FERNANDO COUTO (Por) 02.08.69
11 Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Ser) 20.02.69
23 Paolo NEGRO 16.04.72
22 Massimo ODDO 14.06.76
31 Jaap STAM (Hol) 17.07.72
5 Luciano ZAURI 20.01.78

Midfielders
4 Demetrio ALBERTINI 23.08.71
6 Ousmane DABO (Fra) 08.02.77
14 Stefano FIORE 17.04.75
16 Giuliano GIANNICHEDDA 21.09.74
17 Guerino GOTTARDI 18.12.70
20 Fabio LIVERANI 29.04.76
53 SERGIO CONCEICAO (Por) 15.11.74
10 Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser) 11.09.78

Forwards
7 CLAUDIO LOPEZ (Arg) 17.07.74
9 Bernardo CORRADI 30.03.76
21 Simone INZAGHI 05.04.76
18 Roberto MUZZI 21.09.71

LOKOMOTIV MOSCOW

Goalkeepers
22 Zaur KHAPOV 21.10.64
9 Ruslan NIGMATULLIN 07.10.74
1 Sergei OVCHINNIKOV 10.11.70

Defenders
5 Sergei IGNASHEVICH 14.07.79
4 Jacob LEKGETHO (Saf) 24.03.74
2 Gennadi NIZHEGORODOV 07.06.77
14 Oleg PACHININ (Uzb) 12.09.74
17 Dmitri SENNIKOV 24.06.76

Midfielders
30 Malkhaz ASATIANI (Geo) 04.08.81
16 Vadim EVSEEV 08.01.76
41 Sergei GURENKO (Bls) 30.09.72
7 Marat IZMAILOV 21.09.82
28 Dmitri KHOKHLOV 22.12.75
10 Dmitri LOSKOV 12.02.74
8 Vladimir MAMINOV (Uzb) 04.09.74
6 Narvik SIRKHAYEV (Aze) 16.03.74
19 Nemanja VUCICEVIC (Ser) 11.08.79

Forwards
32 Mikheil ASHVETIA (Geo) 10.11.77
15 Maksim BUZNIKIN 01.03.77
99 JORGE WAGNER (Bra) 17.11.78
77 LEANDRO (Bra) 13.08.80
52 Winston PARKS (CR) 12.10.81
25 Ruslan PIMENOV 25.11.81

LYON

Goalkeepers
1 Gregory COUPET 31.12.72
30 Nicolas PUYDEBOIS 28.02.81
25 Remy VERCOUTRE 26.06.80

Defenders
23 Jeremie BERTHOD 24.04.84
5 Claudio CACAPA (Bra) 29.05.76
2 Eric DEFLANDRE (Blg) 02.08.73
15 Christophe DELMOTTE 09.06.69
3 EDMILSON (Bra) 10.07.76
26 Gael GENEVIER 26.06.82
20 Patrick MULLER (Swi) 17.12.76
12 Anthony REVEILLERE 10.11.79
22 Romain SARTRE 12.11.82

Midfielders
10 Eric CARRIERE 24.05.73
24 Vikash DHORASOO 10.10.73
7 Djila DIARRA (Mli) 18.05.81
4 Michael ESSIEN (Gha) 03.12.82
29 Johann GOMEZ 25.09.81
8 JUNINHO Pernambucano (Bra) 30.01.75
11 Florent MALOUDA 13.06.80

Forwards
31 Bryan BERGOUGNOUX 12.01.83
9 Giovane ELBER (Bra) 23.07.72
14 Sidney GOVOU 27.07.79
18 Pegguy LUYINDULA 25.05.79
27 Julien VIALE 13.02.82

MANCHESTER UNITED

Goalkeepers
1 Fabien BARTHEZ (Fra) 28.06.71
13 Roy CARROLL (NI) 30.09.77
14 Tim HOWARD (USA) 08.03.78
44 Luke STEELE 24.09.84
30 Ben WILLIAMS 27.08.82

Defenders
6 Wes BROWN 13.10.79
5 Rio FERDINAND 07.11.78
8 Mark LYNCH 02.09.81
35 Paul McSHANE (Ire) 06.01.86
2 Gary NEVILLE 18.02.75
3 Phil NEVILLE 21.01.77
22 John O'SHEA (Ire) 30.04.81
27 Mickael SILVESTRE (Fra) 09.08.77

Midfielders
8 Nicky BUTT 21.01.75
19 Eric DJEMBA DJEMBA (Cam) 04.05.81
25 Quinton FORTUNE (SAf) 21.05.77
16 Roy KEANE (Ire) 10.08.71
15 KLEBERSON (Bra) 19.06.79
18 Paul SCHOLES 16.11.74

Forwards
12 David BELLION (Fra) 27.11.82
7 CRISTIANO RONALDO (Por) 05.02.85
21 Diego FORLAN (Uru) 19.05.79
11 Ryan GIGGS (Wal) 29.11.73
20 Ole Gunnar SOLSKJAER (Nor) 26.02.73
10 Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol) 01.07.76

MARSEILLE

Goalkeepers
16 Cedric CARRASSO 30.12.81
1 Vedran RUNJE (Cro) 10.02.76

Defenders
23 Habib BEYE (Sen) 19.10.77
5 Philippe CHRISTANVAL 31.08.78
3 Manuel DOS SANTOS 28.03.74
21 Johnny ECKER 16.01.73
25 Fabien LAURENTI 06.01.83
12 Abdoulyae MEITE 06.10.80
8 Sebastien PEREZ 24.11.73
4 Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg) 07.02.78

Midfielders
29 Fabio CELESTINI (Swi) 31.10.75
6 Brahim HEMDANI 15.03.78
15 Pascal JOHANSEN 28.04.79
18 Camel MERIEM 18.10.79
7 Sylvain N'DIAYE (Sen) 25.06.76
14 Stepan VACHOUSEK (Cze) 26.07.79

Forwards
11 Didier DROGBA (IvC) 11.03.78
10 Lucio FERNANDAO (Bra) 18.03.78
9 Ahmed HOSSAM (Egy) 23.02.83
20 Steve MARLET 10.01.74
22 Dmitri SYCHEV (Rus) 26.10.83

MILAN

Goalkeepers
77 Christian ABBIATI 08.07.77
12 DIDA (Bra) 07.10.73
1 Valerio FIORI 27.04.69

Defenders
2 CAFU (Bra) 07.06.70
19 Alessandro COSTACURTA 24.04.66
4 Kakha KALADZE (Geo) 27.02.78
24 Martin LAURSEN (Den) 26.07.77
3 Paolo MALDINI 26.06.68
13 Alessandro NESTA 19.03.76
26 Giuseppe PANCARO 26.08.71
14 Dario SIMIC (Cro) 12.11.75

Midfielders
23 Massimo AMBROSINI 29.05.77
32 Cristian BROCCHI 30.01.76
8 Gennaro GATTUSO 09.01.78
22 KAKA (Bra) 22.04.82
21 Andrea PIRLO 19.05.79
5 Fernando REDONDO (Arg) 06.06.69
11 RIVALDO (Bra) 19.04.72
10 RUI COSTA (Por) 29.03.72
20 Clarence SEEDORF (Hol) 01.04.76
27 SERGINHO (Bra) 27.06.71

Forwards
18 Marco BORRIELLO 18.06.82
9 Filippo INZAGHI 09.08.73
7 Andrii SHEVCHENKO (Ukr) 29.09.76
15 Jon Dahl TOMASSON (Den) 29.08.76

MONACO

Goalkeepers
16 Andre BIANCARELLI 11.03.70
1 Stephane PORATO 19.09.73
30 Flavio ROMA (Ita) 21.06.74
29 Tony SYLVA (Sen) 17.05.75

Defenders
3 Patrice EVRA 15.05.81
32 Gael GIVET 09.10.81
12 Josef OSHADOGAN (Ita) 27.06.76
27 Julien RODRIGUEZ 11.06.78
19 Sebastien SQUILLACI 11.08.80

Midfielders
7 Lucas BERNARDI (Arg) 27.09.77
14 Edouard CISSE 30.03.78
35 Hassan EL FAKIRI (Nor) 18.04.77
6 Jaroslav PLASIL (Cze) 05.01.82
25 Jerome ROTHEN 31.03.78
15 Akis ZIKOS (Gre) 01.06.74

Forwards
24 Shedi ADEBAYOR (Tog) 26.02.84
26 Souleymane CAMARA (Sen) 22.12.82
37 Sebastien CAROLE 08.09.82
8 Ludovic GIULY 10.07.76
4 Hugo IBARRA (Arg) 01.04.74
10 Fernando MORIENTES (Spa) 05.04.76
18 Shabani NONDA (DRC) 06.03.77
9 Dado PRSO (Cro) 05.11.74

OLYMPIAKOS

Goalkeepers
16 Juraj BUCEK (Slk) 15.09.73
31 Dimitrios ELEFTHEROPOULOS 07.08.76
22 Theofanis KATERGIANNAKIS 16.02.74

Defenders
32 Giorgios ANATOLAKIS 16.03.74
18 Paraskevas ANTZAS 18.08.76
19 Athanasios KOSTOULAS 24.03.76
44 Efthimios KOULOUCHERIS 10.03.81
14 Dimitrios MAVROGENIDIS 23.12.76
30 Anastasios PANTOS 05.05.76
2 Christos PATSATZOGLOU 19.03.79
25 Spiridon VALLAS 26.08.81
3 Stylianos VENETIDIS 19.11.76

Midfielders
11 Predrag DJORDJEVIC (Ser) 04.08.72
8 Giorgios GEORGIADIS 08.03.72
20 Panagiotis GONIAS 06.10.71
1 Pantelis KAFES 24.06.78
5 Christian KAREMBEU (Fra) 03.12.70
4 Andreas NINIADIS 18.02.71
6 Ieroklis STOLTIDIS 02.02.75

Forwards
9 Lambros CHOUTOS 07.12.79
10 GIOVANNI (Bra) 04.02.72
21 Marcin KUZBA (Pol) 15.04.77
23 Alexandros TATSIS 28.08.79

PANATHINAIKOS

Goalkeepers
12 Konstantinos CHALKIAS 30.05.74
33 Stephanos KOTSOLIS 05.06.79
1 Antonios NIKOPOLIDIS 14.10.71
31 Alexandros TZORVAS 12.08.82

Defenders
30 Panagiotis FISSAS 12.06.73
8 Giannis GOUMAS 24.05.75
2 Rene HENRIKSEN (Den) 27.08.69
16 Sotirios KYRGIAKOS 23.07.79
3 Nasief MORRIS (SAf) 16.04.81
6 Markus MUNCH (Ger) 07.09.72
5 Giourkas SEITARIDIS 04.06.81

Midfielders
20 Angelos BASINAS 03.01.76
10 Joel EPALLE (Cam) 20.02.78
21 Xenofon GITAS 22.06.79
27 Pantelis KONSTANTINIDIS 16.08.75
4 Silvio MARIC (Cro) 20.03.75
35 Jan MICHAELSEN (Den) 28.11.70
18 Lucian SANMARTEAN (Rom) 13.03.80
22 Miltos SAPANIS 28.01.76
14 Raimondas ZUTAUTAS (Lit) 04.09.72

Forwards
19 Michalis CONSTANTINOU (Cyp) 19.02.78
23 Emmanuel OLISADEBE (Pol) 22.12.78
11 Dimitrios PAPADOPOULOS 20.10.81
7 Goran VLAOVIC (Cro) 07.08.72
9 Krzysztof WARZYCHA (Pol) 17.11.64

PARTIZAN BELGRADE

Goalkeepers
30 Ivica KRALJ 26.03.73
27 Djordje PANTIC 27.01.80
1 Radovan RADAKOVIC 06.02.71

Defenders
25 Branimir BAJIC 19.10.79
2 Milivoje CIRKOVIC 14.04.77
14 Nenad DJORDJEVIC 07.08.79
3 Dragoljub JEREMIC 09.08.78
15 Nikola MALBASA 12.09.77
20 Milovan MILOVIC 24.10.80
5 Dejan OGNJANOVIC 21.06.78
26 Tomasz RZASA (Pol) 11.03.73
24 Branko SAVIC 08.08.72
7 Milan STOJANOSKI (Mac) 16.09.73
16 Taribo WEST (Nig) 26.03.74
21 Bojan ZAVISIC 09.08.79

Midfielders
11 Damir CAKAR 28.06.73
4 Igor DULJAJ 29.10.79
22 Sasa ILIC 30.12.77
18 Vladimir IVIC 07.05.77
28 Albert NADJ 29.10.74

Forwards
23 Bojan BRNOVIC 10.02.79
9 Andrija DELIBASIC 24.04.81
10 Ljubinko DRULOVIC 11.09.68
17 Ivica ILIEV 27.10.79
6 Dzenan RADONCIC 02.08.83

FC PORTO

Goalkeepers
13 NUNO 25.01.74
99 VITOR BAIA 15.10.69

Defenders
2 JORGE COSTA 14.10.71
30 MARIO SILVA 24.04.77
8 NUNO VALENTE 12.09.74
22 PAULO FERREIRA 18.01.79
3 PEDRO EMANUEL 11.02.75
4 RICARDO CARVALHO 18.05.78
5 RICARDO COSTA 16.05.81
7 Carlos SECRETARIO 12.05.70

Midfielders
17 Jose BOSINGWA 24.08.82
6 COSTINHA 01.12.74
10 DECO 27.08.77
18 MANICHE 11.11.77
23 PEDRO MENDES 26.02.79
25 RICARDO FERNANDES 21.04.78
66 TIAGO 04.07.75

Forwards
15 Dmitri ALENICHEV (Rus) 20.10.72
28 BRUNO MORAES (Bra) 07.07.84
16 CESAR PEIXOTO 12.05.80
11 DERLEI (Bra) 14.07.75
9 Edgaras JANKAUSKAS (Lit) 12.03.75
20 MARCO FERREIRA 12.03.78
77 Benni McCARTHY (SAf) 12.11.77

PSV EINDHOVEN

Goalkeepers
1 Rob VAN DIJK 15.01.69
23 Ronald WATERREUS 25.08.70

Defenders
30 Kasper BOGELUND (Den) 08.10.80
20 Jurgen COLIN 20.01.81
4 Ernest FABER 27.08.71
29 Kevin HOFLAND 07.06.79
35 Michael JAKOBSEN (Den) 02.01.86
3 LEE Young-pyo (SKo) 23.04.77
2 Andre OOIJER 11.07.74

Midfielders
5 Wilfred BOUMA 15.06.78
25 John DE JONG 08.03.77
22 Jordi HOOGSTRATE 02.06.83
10 LEANDRO (Bra) 08.01.84
16 Theo LUCIUS 19.12.76
7 PARK Ji-sung (SKo) 25.02.81
6 Mark VAN BOMMEL 22.04.77
13 Remco VAN DER SCHAAF 28.02.79
14 Johann VOGEL (Swi) 08.03.77

Forwards
32 EDSON SILVA (CVI) 03.09.83
9 Mateja KEZMAN (Ser) 12.04.79
11 Arjen ROBBEN 23.01.84
19 Dennis ROMMEDAHL (Den) 22.07.78
8 Jan VENNEGOOR OF HESSELINK 07.11.78
15 Johann VONLANTHEN (Swi) 01.02.85

RANGERS

Goalkeepers
29 Jesper CHRISTIANSEN (Den) 24.04.78
1 Stefan KLOS (Ger) 16.08.71
22 Allan McGREGOR 31.01.82

Defenders
18 Michael BALL (Eng) 02.10.79
25 Henning BERG (Nor) 01.09.69
15 Zurab KHIZANISHVILI (Geo) 06.10.81
12 Robert MALCOLM 12.11.80
3 Craig MOORE (Aus) 12.12.75
2 Fernando RICKSEN (Hol) 27.07.76
21 Maurice ROSS 03.02.81
16 Paolo VANOLI (Ita) 12.08.72
25 Tony VIDMAR (Aus) 04.07.70
19 Scott WILSON 19.03.77

Midfielders
23 Mikel ARTETA (Spa) 26.03.82
14 Ronald DE BOER (Hol) 15.05.70
4 EMERSON (Bra) 12.04.72
33 Billy GIBSON 01.08.81
27 Stephen HUGHES 14.11.82
8 Christian NERLINGER (Ger) 21.03.73

Forwards
7 Shota ARVELADZE (Geo) 22.02.73
20 Nuno CAPUCHO (Por) 21.02.72
26 Peter LOVENKRANDS (Den) 29.01.80
10 Michael MOLS (Hol) 17.12.70
9 Egil OSTENSTAD (Nor) 02.01.72
19 Steven THOMPSON 14.10.78

REAL MADRID

Goalkeepers
13 CARLOS SANCHEZ 19.01.78
1 Iker CASILLAS 20.05.81
25 CESAR 02.09.71

Defenders
2 MICHEL SALGADO 22.10.75
17 Oscar MINAMBRES 01.02.81
28 Juan OLALLA 13.01.80
22 Francisco PAVON 09.01.80
15 RAUL BRAVO 14.04.81
3 ROBERTO CARLOS (Bra) 10.04.73
4 RUBEN 29.01.82

Midfielders
23 David BECKHAM (Eng) 02.05.75
26 BORJA Fernandez 14.01.81
19 Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg) 18.08.80
10 Luis FIGO (Por) 04.11.72
6 IVAN HELGUERA 28.03.75
31 Jordi LOPEZ 28.02.81
27 Antonio NUNEZ 15.01.79
21 Santiago SOLARI (Arg) 07.10.76
30 Roberto TRASHORRAS 28.02.81
5 Zinedine ZIDANE (Fra) 23.06.72

Forwards
14 GUTI 31.10.76
11 Javier PORTILLO 30.03.82
7 RAUL 27.06.77
29 RIKI 11.08.80
9 RONALDO (Bra) 22.09.76

REAL SOCIEDAD

Goalkeepers
1 ALBERTO 20.05.69
13 Mikel SAIZAR 18.01.83
25 Sander WESTERVELD (Hol) 23.10.74

Defenders
14 AITOR Lopez 18.08.75
3 Agustin ARANZABAL 15.03.73
23 Sergio BORIS Gonzalez 26.05.80
24 GARRIDO 15.03.85
5 Zuhaitz GURRUTXAGA 23.11.80
7 JAUREGI 29.04.74
2 Bjorn Tore KVARME (Nor) 17.06.72
22 Lionel POTILLON (Fra) 10.02.74
6 Gabriel SCHURRER (Arg) 16.08.71

Midfielders
18 Bittor ALKIZA 26.10.70
11 ARANBURU 18.02.79
20 Jose BARKERO 27.04.79
10 Javi DE PEDRO 04.08.73
17 Igor GABILONDO 10.02.79
8 Valeri KARPIN (Rus) 02.02.69
16 MIKEL ALONSO 16.05.80
4 XABI ALONSO 25.11.81
12 XABIER PRIETO 29.08.83

Forwards
21 Oscar DE PAULA 31.05.75
9 Darko KOVACEVIC (Ser) 18.11.73
19 LEE Chun-soo (SKo) 09.07.81
15 NIHAT Kahveci (Tur) 23.11.79

SPARTA PRAGUE

Goalkeepers
29 Jaromir BLAZEK 29.12.72
1 Petr KOUBA 28.01.69
30 Michal SPIT 09.04.75

Defenders
5 Jan FLACHBART 03.03.78
22 Jiri HOMOLA 02.07.80
16 Tomas HUBSCHMAN 04.09.81
17 Petr JOHANA 01.11.76
3 Vladimir LABANT (Slk) 08.06.74
19 Martin PETRAS (Slk) 02.11.79
18 Mirko POLEDICA (Ser) 11.09.78

Midfielders
11 Patrik JEZEK 28.12.76
15 Radoslav KOVAC 27.11.79
12 Pavel KRMAS 03.03.80
10 Rastislav MICHALIK (Slk) 14.01.74
20 Jiri NEMEC 15.05.66
4 Pavel PERGL 14.11.77
8 Karel POBORSKY 30.03.72
6 Jiri ROSICKY 11.11.77
26 Martin ZBONCAK 21.07.75
7 Lukas ZELENKA 05.10.79

Forwards
27 Igor GLUSCEVIC (Ser) 30.03.74
13 Vladimir GLUSCEVIC (Ser) 20.10.79
21 Tomas JUN 17.01.83
9 Marek KINCL 03.04.73
14 Libor SIONKO 01.02.77

STUTTGART

Goalkeepers
31 Diego BENAGLIO (Swi) 08.09.83
23 Dirk HEINEN 03.12.70
1 Timo HILDEBRAND 05.04.79

Defenders
5 Marcelo BORDON (Bra) 07.01.76
29 Steffen DANGELMAYR 09.09.78
6 FERNANDO MEIRA (Por) 05.06.78
28 Michael FINK 01.02.82
2 Andreas HINKEL 26.03.82
21 Philipp LAHM 11.11.83
3 Timo WENZEL 30.11.77

Midfielders
35 Serge BRANCO (Fra) 11.10.80
14 Emanuel CENTURION (Arg) 25.08.82
12 Heiko GERBER 11.07.72
16 Horst HELDT 09.12.69
15 Alexander HLEB (Bls) 01.05.81
7 Silvio MEISSNER 19.01.73
25 Michael MUTZEL 27.09.79
38 Tobias RATHGEB 03.05.82
20 Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro) 02.11.67
8 Jurica VRANJES (Cro) 31.01.80

Forwards
11 Ioannis AMANATIDIS (Gre) 03.12.81
18 CACAU (Bra) 27.03.81
22 Kevin KURANYI 02.03.82
19 Imre SZABICS (Hun) 22.03.81
13 Christian TIFFERT 18.02.82

Keir Radnedge **COMMENTARY**

Racism: the long haul

Serious problems require serious solutions

FOOTBALL IS A simple game, said Tottenham's push-and-run manager Arthur Rowe, it's the players who make it difficult. More than 50 years later, Rowe might have added another P, for politicians, to his dictum.

The game's worldwide popularity means it has to carry more than its share of responsibility for the general ills of the world at large; now racism is the high-profile offshoot of the hooliganism issue which has dogged football for more than 30 years.

Ted Croker never received the knighthood that was once customary for the Football Association's general secretary because of his resistance to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's unworkable demands for a nationwide restrictive supporters' membership scheme.

"We don't want your hooligans in our game," Croker is reputed to have told the Iron Lady. He was not the most admired of FA bosses but, as a former fighter pilot trainer who once dragged himself down a mountain with a broken leg to summon help for colleagues, he was not one for being intimidated either. The FA was on a fast learning curve. It took some time and inward re-education before the game's leaders – and this applied both nationally and internationally – realised they could not sit back and content themselves with blaming hooligan violence on the world outside.

Whatever long-term educational measures were taken by governments, their duty was to act in the short term to contain the thuggish consequences of social ignorance.

UEFA, similarly, stuck its head in the sand, most shamefully after the Heysel disaster of 1985 when it tried to pretend its inadequate stadium security policy was unconnected with the deaths of 39 Juventus fans before the European Cup Final against Liverpool.

In due course the shock of repeated deaths prompted English football – with the necessary co-operation of politicians and police – to draw up the game's most effective anti-hooligan measures; UEFA and FIFA also lifted their heads out of the sand and revolutionised their own stadium security regulations. By and large, what can be done by football is being done, while politicians must struggle to combat the conditions of social exclusion that provoke hooligan violence across modern society.

So it was with hooliganism, so it is with racism. The association of hooligan violence with ultra-right xenophobic politics meant that football in Britain was for too long considered a white man's sport. The rapid increase in black players has never been matched by a similar percentage in the crowds; though this may be a matter of time as today's players grow up into tomorrow's supporters.

Racial alienation led to the racial abuse once common in British stadiums. Again, education may produce long-term tolerance, but football is responsible for short-term solutions within its own domain.

Perhaps the most unpleasant revelation after the collapse of the Berlin Wall was the extent of racism largely hidden among the subdued crowds of the Communist era. The Iron Curtain had preserved stagnating white societies that had not had to confront the multi-racial issues common to the streets and schools of Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium etc. Hence the racist chanting common at internationals and most notably recently in Slovakia and Macedonia.

Again, various football-based anti-racism initiatives have been launched, particularly in England and Germany. When France won the 1998 World Cup compatriots of Zinedine Zidane, Bixente Lizarazu and Marcel Desailly hailed the inter-racial lesson that the country's footballers had delivered to their own society.

But it's a slow process. UEFA, hampered in this as in other political spheres, by cosy Swiss centrism, has been slow and timid to grasp the nettle. The punishment needs to fit the crime in a way that comes home to fans in stadiums where racism is so volubly evident, whether that is Sunderland or Slovakia. Fines are meaningless because they have no effect on the fans.

Only when UEFA begins the widespread shutting of stadiums will the message get through at grass roots. Short-term exclusion, long-term education.

Grassroots problem...Macedonia fans taunt England during the Euro 2004 qualifier in Skopje

The loan question

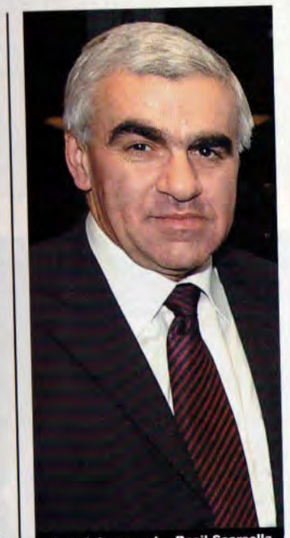
To loan or not to loan. That is an increasingly vexed question within European football. In Italy and to a lesser extent Spain it's been a fact of life for many years. English football is still trying to find a system that works amid all the complexities of the transfer window.

The new English hybrid regarding loans is confusing. Players can come and go now between Premiership clubs on variable-length loans.

Concerns about the honesty and credibility of short-term loans have been raised in England. It's never been a serious problem to worry the Italians; the Spanish have been far sharper at writing 'home club' match exclusion clauses into the loan contracts of high-profile players.

The loan system offers clubs a way of balancing squads and books – as long as stability is again written into the equation. That means loans – whether in the Premiership, Serie A or La Liga – being for a minimum of one full season.

Loyalty works two ways.



Enough is enough...Basil Scarsella

Scarsella deserved better

BASIL SCARSELLA has quit as president of the Oceania federation. He stepped down after losing a vote of confidence in his executive by six votes to five. I am surprised he even waited that long. Once he had been stabbed in the back by FIFA's executive I would have thought sheer pride would have persuaded him to go.

How could he work on at international level with men who had smilingly welcomed him (and his federation) to the World Cup club less than two years ago and then kicked him out of it earlier this year?

The story of how Oceania got a guaranteed World Cup finals place and then lost it is one of the nastiest little sideshows in FIFA's corporate and political history – yet one that the governing body's sharpest media critics in Europe have largely ignored.

Scarsella did everything right. The executive voted Oceania into the World Cup club in December 2001 and he repaid this by standing up loyally for Blatter in Seoul in the Battle of the Accounts. Blatter won the day – but all the thanks Scarsella got was a kick in the teeth.

The manner of Oceania's dismissal also underlined another oddity about the way FIFA is run. The presidents of all the regional confederations are granted an automatic vice-presidency of FIFA, but not Oceania. Scarsella attended the dismissive executive meeting in Paris as a mere observer while Ahongalu Fusimalohi of Tonga sat in committee as Oceania's single, voting delegate.

Now Blatter has been quoted as suggesting Oceania might regain that guaranteed place for 2010. Oh really? After the Paris executive he said that a 32-team finals was set in stone for the next two World Cups. So who is going to give up their place? Don't expect Blatter to be killed in the rush.

Kenyon opts for easier life

TREVOR BIRCH, then still Chelsea's chief executive, said after the signing of Claude Makelele that this deal marked the end of the club's summer transfer spree. Little did he know, clearly, about the imminent arrival of Peter Kenyon from Manchester United to take over his own job.

Speculation about Kenyon's motives were inevitable. Obviously, a double-your-money package worth up to £1.2 million a year would have been attractive, matched against his apparent frustration at a squabble between United shareholder John Magnier and manager Sir Alex Ferguson over their financial interest in the racehorse Rock of Gibraltar.

Perhaps, also, Kenyon felt he had taken United as far as he could in terms of worldwide brand promotion; that they had been perceived as sitting still while Real Madrid came up on the rails, to borrow a term from Ferguson's other sporting focus.

Was Kenyon growing increasingly concerned about City institution restrictions on United's freedom of movement or about an impending boardroom battle for control – which might then have impinged on his own power and role?

Or maybe it was much simpler. A semi-absentee owner with a bottomless purse must appear a most attractive employer. I wonder if that has crossed the mind of Sven Goran Eriksson?

THE THRILLING FIELDS!

Join our search for the world's most spectacular football stadium

A STADIUM IS so much more than a venue for a football match. Many football grounds are now architectural marvels in their own right.

In recent years, new venues have opened that have taken stadium design to new levels. Retractable roofs, moveable pitches, underground car parks: technical developments that were unheard of just a few years ago.

The new stadiums at Gelsenkirchen, Cardiff and Amsterdam featured here are examples of what can be created when football's authorities work with talented, forward-thinking architects, engineers and builders.

But it is not just in the last few years that such futuristic stadiums have been constructed. For Italia 90, a host of new stadiums were built, such as in Bari, while some dramatic additions were made to old favourites (Milan).

This month, we pay tribute to some of the world's most incredible stadiums. We've selected 10 that deserve recognition for their structural and technical beauty – irrespective of what happens on the pitch.

AMSTERDAM

ARENA
Capacity: 51,342
Home to: Ajax
Venue for: 1998 Champions League Final; Euro 2000 semi-final
Did you know?
The futuristic ArenA was the world's first stadium to have a fully retractable roof. It also has an underground car park with space for 2,600 cars.

BARI

STADIO SAN NICOLA
Capacity: 59,000
Home to: Bari
Venue for: 1990 World Cup finals; 1991 European Cup Final
Did you know?
The stadium's incredible sculpted roof was partly the creation of Peter Rice, the British engineer renowned for his work on the Sydney Opera House, the Pompidou Centre in Paris and the Lloyds of London building.

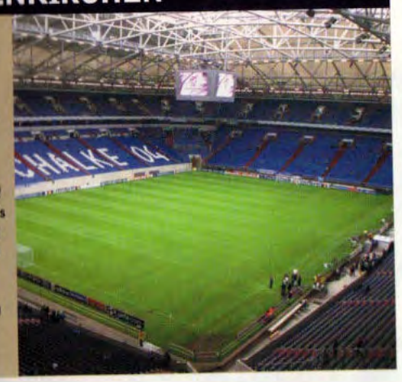
BARCELONA

CAMP NOU
Capacity: 98,600
Home to: FC Barcelona
Venue for: 1982 World Cup finals; 1964 European Championship finals; 1999 Champions League Final; 1972 and 1982 European Cup-winners Cup Finals
Did you know?
The stadium was expanded for the 1982 World Cup finals, with extra capacity added by digging down into the space around the pitch.

CARDIFF

MILLENNIUM STADIUM
Capacity: 72,500
Home to: Welsh national side
Did you know?
It cost £126million to build, taking some 1,200 people two years to complete. It is the tallest building in Wales. The turf is laid out on 7,400 pallets, which can be removed so that rock concerts and other events can be staged.

GELSENKIRCHEN



ARENA AUFSCHALKE
Capacity: 52,000
Home to: Schalke 04
Venue for: 2006 World Cup finals; 2004 Champions League Final
Did you know?
In addition to a sliding roof and sliding pitch (which sits outside the stadium during the week), the ground also has one end that can be converted from seating (for international matches) to a standing area (for Bundesliga games).

PARIS

STADE DE FRANCE
Capacity: 80,000
Home to: French national side
Venue for: 1998 World Cup Final; 2000 Champions League Final
Did you know?
The stadium features 25,000 retractable seats on the lower tier that can be moved forward over the athletics track to bring spectators closer to the pitch during football and rugby matches.

MADRID

ESTADIO SANTIAGO BERNABEU
Capacity: 74,871
Home to: Real Madrid
Venue for: 1982 World Cup Final; 1957, 1969 and 1980 European Cup Finals
Did you know?
The stadium is due to undergo expansion which will take the capacity above 90,000. The stadium is situated on one of Madrid's most exclusive streets, in the city's financial district.

RIYADH

KING FAYED STADIUM
Capacity: 70,000
Did you know?
Designed to look like a giant tent in the desert, no expense was spared in the creation of this £400million stadium, which opened in 1988 for the Gulf Cup. An underground reservoir containing 8,000 cubic metres of water ensures that the pitch never dries out.

MILAN

STADIO GIUSEPPE MEAZZA/SAN SIRO
Capacity: 75,443
Home to: Internazionale and Milan
Venue for: 1990 World Cup finals; 1970 and 2001 European Cup Finals
Did you know?
The stadium first opened in 1926 and was enlarged in 1937, 1955 and 1989. The third tier and vast space-age roof were added during the most recent of those expansions.

SEOUL

WORLD CUP STADIUM
Capacity: 64,670
Venue for: 2002 World Cup finals
Did you know?
The stadium's roof is shaped in the form of traditional kites and sailboats, paying homage to the history of the Han River, which forms part of the border between South and North Korea.

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Brian Glanville on Herbert Chapman, the first great innovative manager in world football

Bubbling with ideas

Mr Motivator...Chapman was never afraid to introduce radical methods

HAVING WON TWO consecutive League championships in his native Yorkshire with Huddersfield Town, Herbert Chapman, who had transformed that club from distant contenders into a major power, came to London in 1925 to do still more for Arsenal. They too, when he arrived, were merely making up the numbers in the First Division. Indeed, they were lucky to be making them up at all, since only some serpentine wheeling and dealing by their chairman, Sir Henry Norris, had got them out of the Second Division at the end of the Great War in 1919.

Interestingly, it was Chapman who approached Arsenal, answering a newspaper advertisement for a new manager, rather than the other way around, as is generally believed. Having taken over at Highbury, he proceeded to bring in veteran Sunderland inside-right Charlie Buchan on the kind of deal that epitomised his original way of doing things: £100 paid for every goal he scored.

Did Chapman or Buchan invent the third-back game, after the more permissive change in the offside law, itself following a perfunctory experiment at Highbury? Buchan always insisted to me that the idea was his. Its adoption followed a seven-goal debacle at Newcastle on the first day of the new season, and from that moment, counter-attack was the name of the Arsenal game. Chapman would significantly tell his teams that they went on the field with a point and if they did not concede a goal, they would come away with at least a point.

Burned books

Chapman, born in 1873, did not have an outstanding playing career. An inside-left known for his yellow boots, he played, ironically enough, for Tottenham in their Southern League days, subsequently became player-manager of Northampton Town, then managed the old Leeds City club. In October 1919 the Football Association, which Chapman would forever despise, found Leeds City guilty of making illegal payments and threw them out of the League. It is said that Chapman, who was suspended, burned the books to save his players from sanctions. For a while he went to work in a factory but, once pardoned, he took over Huddersfield Town.

Major players...Chapman (far left) transformed Huddersfield Town into champions before moving to Arsenal

One of the most interesting accounts of him was provided by his great friend Vittorio Pozzo, *commissario tecnico* of Italy, with whom and the dynamic supremo of the Austrian Wunderteam, Hugo Meisl, he made up an imposing trio. Pozzo often came over to Highbury to sit at Chapman's feet, or to meet him and Meisl in a Piccadilly hotel. When England played Italy for the first time in May 1933 in Rome, Pozzo related his surprise that as he came out of the *Azzurri* dressing-room at half-time he met the shirtsleeved Chapman emerging from England's. "What are you doing here?" asked Pozzo. Chapman put both hands on his shoulders and replied: "I'm doing for my country what you're doing for yours." Since England, who'd never had a team manager and wouldn't until 1946, improved in the second half, Pozzo assumed that Chapman's instructions had borne fruit.

He was a man who bubbled with ideas. Whether it was changing Arsenal's all-red shirts to shirts with white sleeves and instituting striped stockings for quicker recognition, persuading London Transport to call nearby Gillespie Road station Arsenal, introducing head tennis, or advocating the use of floodlights, Chapman was always inventive.

Above all, however, he had an almost hypnotic ability to convince people. Thus when soon after his arrival at Highbury, left-half Tom Whittaker returned from an FA tour of Australia with a badly-injured knee, his career at an end, it was Chapman who, to his surprise, told him he would make him the best trainer in the game and did. This after wringing compensation out of the Football Association and seeing to it that Whittaker got the medical care that enabled him to walk again. Whittaker, from the North-east, had considered returning to his original calling as a marine engineer. Instead, he found himself made assistant trainer at Highbury, then, when Chapman crossed swords with head trainer George Hardy, Whittaker replaced him. There is no doubt he had unusual healing powers, which played a salient part in Arsenal's later success.

'When Alex James defied him, Chapman sent him on a sea voyage – on a tramp steamer'

Buchan wasn't at first keen to join or rather rejoin the Gunners – whom he had left when Woolwich Arsenal was their name, before the Great War, over a matter of 11 shillings expenses. But Chapman had his way. As he did in 1929, both with Alex James, bought from Preston, whom Chapman persuaded to become the playmaker of his team, and 17-year-old Cliff Bastin, more interested in getting out to play a tennis match than signing for the Gunners from Exeter City, when Chapman came calling.

Then there was the case of George Male, who arrived as an amateur left-half from Clapton, a position he filled in the 1932 FA Cup Final. Chapman needed a new right-back with the retirement of his skipper, Tom Parker, and he called Male into his office. Male remembered that he went in with no idea of filling the role, but left it convinced he would indeed become the best right-back in the world. Indeed he played 19 times for England.

His partner at left-back, Eddie Hapgood, an England captain himself, worshipped Chapman. "He told you how to dress," he once declared, "he told you how to do your hair." Chapman, in fact, was a father figure to his men, if not a benevolent dictator. And though the day of the tracksuit manager was far off, he was compulsively involved in tactics.

No smoking

Chapman found Hapgood playing for non-league Kettering and signed him for a mere £1,000, having asked him – the reply was negative – whether he smoked or drank. He was to be an essential member of the team that won the championship in 1931, 1933 and 1934; the latter year Chapman prematurely died, having unwisely attended a match with a cold which turned into pneumonia. The FA Cup was won in 1930, his old team, Huddersfield, being beaten in the Final.

He had his own way of dealing with the recalcitrant. When James defied him, he sent him on a sea voyage – on a tramp steamer. There was none of the disciplinary permissiveness of today's Arsenal; Chapman had no truck with players who, today, are all too easily indulged. When reserve left-back Tommy Black gave away a penalty from which Walsall scored their decisive second goal in a sensational FA Cup win against Arsenal in 1933, he was rapidly transferred to Plymouth.

Chapman was never afraid to spend. He paid £9,000 for James, £10,000 for the famous inside-right David Jack, huge sums at the time, but Hapgood and Bastin were bargains. His bust was very properly displayed in Highbury's marble atrium.

DIGEST

NEWS AND REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

WS WORLD SOCCER

Brazil strike gold again

Paul Gardner in Finland reports on a hard-earned triumph at the Under-17 World Championship

BRAZIL AGAIN. For the third time in the last four tournaments, Brazil are the world Under-17 champions. Once more, the winners' podium was alive with jostling canary-yellow shirts as the Brazilian boys lit up the stadium with their smiles and their joyous song-and-dance routines.

Watching from the sidelines, silently reflecting on how close they had come to being up there in the winners' spotlight, were Spain. It had not been an easy win for Brazil.

But, to begin at the beginning: in the city of Tampere Brazil kicked off in Group C with a slight miscue against Cameroon, being unable – despite numerous opportunities, despite two red cards to Cameroon – to score the winning goal. A 1-1 draw in which Abuda, a Corinthians player already with first-team experience, touched the heights with almost Garrincha-like dribbling, had scored the equaliser, and had then hit bottom by spectacularly tripping over the ball with an open goal at his mercy.

There were no more first-round problems for the Brazilians. Portugal, the European champions, were next up, and they were swept aside 5-0 with insulting ease. At a canter, Brazil then took care of Yemen 3-0, and sailed into the quarter-finals.

They were joined by Portugal – who may be the only team ever to advance in a FIFA tournament after conceding 13 goals in three games. Following a shaky 4-3 win over Yemen and the 5-0 debacle against Brazil, Portugal needed only a draw against Cameroon to qualify. They got it by the skin of their teeth in an extraordinary game. With 20 minutes left, Portugal were home and dry with a 5-0 lead. Manuel Curto (Benfica) notched an eight-minute first-half hat-trick, including a stunning, and calculated, 50-yard effort that looped tantalisingly over bewildered Cameroon goalkeeper Luc Kalapach.

Then, in the 70th minute, Cameroon pulled a goal back when Portuguese defender Tiago Costa (FC Porto) headed powerfully into his own net. Substitute Serge Ngal quickly added two more, Joel Nguemo added a fourth, and with the Portuguese defence floundering, Etoundi Mbia tied it up. With one more goal, Cameroon would have qualified at Portugal's expense – but Mbia's equaliser came in the 94th minute, just as time ran out.

Argentina, the South American champions, made short work of winning Group B in Turku, with comfortable wins over Australia (2-0), Costa Rica (2-0), and Nigeria (1-0). Maximum points, and a defence that had not conceded a goal – this despite the loss through injury of captain Lucas Biglia (Argentinos Juniors), who played only the first 45 minutes against Australia.

Deciding second place was tricky – both Nigeria and Costa Rica finished with identical records. A draw was necessary and it was Costa Rica's name that came out of the hat.

Freddy on fire

The USA got off to a rip-roaring start in Group D in Lahti, swamping South Korea 6-1. A hat-trick from 14-year-old Freddy Adu, the USA's highly-regarded Ghana-born star, included a superb individual effort in which he dribbled effortlessly through the heart of the Korean defence.

The huge win was evidently deceptive. The USA were lucky to scrape a 2-1 win over Sierra Leone, who peppered their opponents' goal with 25 shots, but scored only through Alimamy Sesay. The USA equalised on half-time with a Memo Gonzalez penalty, then got an undeserved winner in the 89th minute from the brilliant Adu.

Meanwhile, Spain had been making hard work of things in the same group. Against Sierra Leone, defender Arzo was red-carded in the 28th minute, with Spain already 2-0 up. Sierra Leone seized their chance and scored three times – captain Samuel Barlay getting two of them – until Spain's giant forward Xisco, from Villarreal, headed an equaliser six minutes into added time.

Another late-game comeback was necessary against Korea, who led 2-0 after an hour. But second-half substitute Silva (Valencia) scored a 10-minute hat-trick to see Spain through. The final game between Spain and the USA would decide the group winners. Winning the group loomed large, as the second-placed team would have the daunting task of playing the impressive Brazil in the quarter-finals.

With that in mind, US coach John Ellinger's decision to rest five regular starters, including Adu, was curious. Spain, once again, complicated matters by having Silva sent off just before half-time, but even with 10 men they had no trouble taming the USA 2-0.

The Group D games finished on a sad and troubling note. Sierra Leone were eliminated when losing their final game 3-2 to Korea. But the minds of many of the African players must have been distracted. The following day, when the team arrived at the airport for the flight back home, 12 players and two adults were missing. Within days, they resurfaced and officially requested refugee status.

Finland, in Group A, demonstrated a fact of life for this tournament: it is the home team that feel most pressure. A weak side, who certainly would not have been present had they not been the hosts, they pulled off a surprise 2-1 win against China, then lost 2-0 to Mexico, leaving them needing a victory against Colombia to advance.

Expectations ran high – more than 10,000 fans filled Helsinki's pleasant little Toolo Stadium – but a brutal humiliation awaited them. Colombia, led by an inspired Fredy Guarin, scored nine times, four coming from the deadly Carlos Hidalgo, of Deportivo Pasto.

'We were the Brazilians on the field today. It's hard to take when you know you didn't deserve to lose'

Spain coach Juan Santisteban

The following day's papers showed the Finnish players in tears. "I wish this was only a bad dream," said captain and defender Jermu Gustafsson, "but it wasn't. When Colombia scored their fourth goal, I was completely alone, the others no longer had the will to defend."

Colombia topped the group, with Mexico in second place. They joined Brazil, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Costa Rica and the USA in the second round. A final eight that was unprecedented in the nine previous Under-17 World Championships in that it contained no African or Asian teams.

Samba time...champions Brazil celebrate a somewhat fortunate victory over Spain in the Final

A possible reason for that turnaround was quick to surface – if something underground and off the record can be said to surface. But many coaches and team officials simply linked the poor showing of the Africans and the Asians to FIFA's use, for the first time, of MRI wrist-bone scans as a test for age (see overleaf).

If the eight quarter-finalists represented a disaster for Africa and Asia, they were a massive triumph for South America and Latin soccer in general. Only the USA were a non-Latin team, and they were quickly sent packing by a rampant Brazil with a 3-0 scoreline that could easily have been doubled. The victory was highlighted by a superb goal from Ederson who, moving at full speed into the penalty area, curved the ball superbly over goalkeeper Phil Marfuggi.

The USA, despite their lengthy and expensive preparation (£1.2 million was spent on a full-time residency programme for the boys), proved a pedestrian team, unable to exploit the skills of Adu.

Argentina eased their way into the semi-finals with another shut-out, this time a 2-0 win over Mexico. The Mexicans, in midfielder Alberto Ramirez (Tecos UAG), had the best player on the field, but Argentina, with captain Biglia back in the team, got the goals – from Neri Cardozo (Boca Juniors) and Hernan Peirone, of San Lorenzo.

In the all-European game in Tampere, Spain took their chance for revenge against Portugal, who had pipped them to the European title. Manuel Curto pounced early, after only two minutes, to put Portugal ahead, but the next four goals went to Spain, including two from Cesc (Barcelona), who along with Valencia's Sisi frequently panicked the fragile Portuguese defence. Once again it let in a hatful of goals, as Spain ran out convincing 5-2 winners.

Colombia's 2-0 win over Costa Rica, thanks to two goals from striker Jose Otalvaro (America Cali), involved a controversial factor – FIFA's decision to allow the use of artificial turf at the Toolo stadium. Colombia had already played three games on the carpet. Costa Rica had one practice session and then, because of pre-game rain, had to cope with the 'turf' at its wettest and slickest. Both Colombia's goals came in the first half, as the Costa Ricans struggled to control the ball. Although the second half was more even, they could not come back.

In an immensely entertaining semi-final full of skilful attacking soccer from both sides, Brazil – by now solidly in place as the tournament favourites – found Colombia quite a handful. Despite an early Abuda goal for Brazil, it was the Colombians who looked the more likely to score. It was not until the 72nd minute, after Abuda had scored his second – a beautifully-taken goal on the counter-attack – that Brazil could breathe more easily.

Argentina quickly took control of the other semi-final, against Spain, Biglia scoring after three minutes, and defender Ezequiel Garay (Newell's Old Boys) adding a second. But despite the 2-0 lead, there was the worrying sight of captain Biglia in the wars again, clutching his shoulder in obvious pain as he left the field at half-time.

The opening 10 minutes of the second half were a total disaster for Argentina. Biglia carried on but probably should not have done. His immobility helped to allow a superb Spanish build-up in the 48th minute that led to Cesc curling a shot into the net – the first goal conceded by Argentina in the tournament. Biglia was substituted four minutes later, and Jurado (Real Madrid) equalised almost immediately. Two minutes after that, Argentina lost their most dangerous forward when Cardozo was sent off for a tackle from behind on Ruz (Valencia).

Golden goal

Yet 10-man Argentina – thanks mainly to several saves from goalkeeper Oscar Ustari (Independiente) – held on to take the game to extra-time. With seven minutes remaining, Spain's Ruz got his second yellow card to bring both sides down to 10 men. But with a penalty shoot-out only minutes away, Cesc's golden goal won the game for Spain when he burst past Garay and beat Ustari with a ferocious cross-shot.

A decisive 10 minutes had ruined Argentina's chances of taking their first Under-17 world title, while Spain –

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Precocious talent...Freddy Adu

Goalkeeper
Oscar Ustari *(Argentina/ Independiente)*

Defenders
Leo *(Brazil/Flamengo)*
Ezequiel Garay *(Argentina/Newell's Old Boys)*
Francis *(Spain/Barcelona)*

Midfielders
Sisi *(Spain/Valencia)*
Junior *(Brazil/Vasco da Gama)*
Fredy Guarin *(Colombia/Atletico Huila)*
Alberto Ramirez *(Mexico/Tecos UAG)*
Cesc *(Spain/Barcelona)*

Forwards
Freddy Adu *(USA/no club)*
Abuda *(Brazil/Corinthians)*

for the fourth time in five games – had to struggle after giving up an early goal.

In a tournament that had featured plenty of goalscoring (a total of 117 goals for an average of 3.66 per game), the third-place match between Argentina and Colombia was the only one that needed a penalty decider. After a 1-1 draw, Argentina came out on top, winning the shoot-out 5-4.

A South America v Europe Final then, Brazil v Spain, Brazil with their magical, majestic soccer, against Spain with their gritty determination never to give up.

Except that wasn't the way it turned out. Somehow, the script got turned on its head and the roles were reversed. "We were the Brazilians on the field today," said Spain coach Juan Santisteban after the game. And it was true. Spain had, yet again, given up an early goal – Leonardo (Santos) scoring from the rebound after Joao's prodigiously-curving free-kick had come back off a post.

For a while a second Brazil goal looked likely. Abuda smashed the ball off the bar, and at the half-hour mark Pallardo (Valencia) cleared Ederson's flick-header off the line. But Spain stood firm, and slowly took control.

Spain on top

The second half was all Spain, constantly and skilfully attacking, with Brazil reduced to packed defending and clearing the ball way downfield. So incessant was the Spanish presence in the Brazilian penalty area, so frequent the Spanish corners, so superb their football, that it seemed quite impossible for Brazil not to buckle.

But the equaliser never came. Brazil held on to take the title – yet another to add to the long list already won by Brazil at all age levels. Spain, by far the better team on the day, once again failed to deliver in a big game. "We deserved so much more," said Santisteban. "We always tried to control the ball, never just kicked it away. This was not a fair result – my boys are crying, it's hard to take, especially when you know you didn't deserve to lose."

"It wasn't a good day for my team," admitted Brazil coach Paqueta, "but, then, many times you play well and lose. Maybe we scored too early. And I don't think we were used to the artificial pitch. But today the most important thing was to win."

Win they did, to become the first three-time winners of the Under-17 World Championship.

● *See World Service for results.*

The three A's: Africa, Asia – and Age

FROM THE VERY first edition of the Under-17 World Championship in 1985 in China (it was then an Under-16 tournament), there have been rumours and suggestions and accusations that some teams were using overage players.

Usually, it was the African and Asian teams that were singled out as suspect. But the players' documentation was always in order, and proof was never available.

The controversy heated up in Scotland in 1989 when Saudi Arabia won the tournament with a team that was widely believed to be overage. As the tournament opened, Scotland coach Craig Brown made a joking reference to overage players; everyone chuckled and that was that. But the rumours grew stronger, and when Portugal coach Carlos Queiroz later made similar comments, FIFA stepped in and threatened to send him home.

Asked if they would investigate the allegations of age-cheating, FIFA said they acted only when members complained – and no one had complained.

Yet there is the mysterious fact that Saudi Arabia disappeared from the Under-17 map halfway through the Asian qualifying rounds the following year, and have not featured in the tournament since.

After the 1991 Final, in which Spain lost to Ghana, Spanish coach Juan Santisteban passionately proclaimed his belief that "from all my knowledge and experience of the youth game, the Ghana players cannot be the age they claim to be".

In 1997 Sepp Blatter declared age-cheating to be a "dead issue". FIFA was now demanding both passports and birth certificates, and was checking the past records of players. It seemed that an agreement had been tacitly agreed. The rumours persisted, but at a lower volume.

'X-ray tests at the Asian Under-16 Championship showed some of the players to be as old as 20'

One man who was not satisfied with the situation was Peter Velappan, secretary of the Asian Football Confederation. He felt that some of the Asian teams were using overage players and that this was hampering the development of the Asian game. In 1992, the AFC had used X-rays of the wrist bones to check player ages, but had abandoned the project in favour of relying on the honesty of its members.

By 2001, however, Velappan felt it was necessary to reintroduce X-ray testing, which was administered at that year's Asian Under-16 Championship. The results were staggering.

Sixteen players were banned from international soccer for two years after the tests showed some of them to be as old as 20. Iran, Oman, Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh were banned from youth tournaments and fined £6,000 each. The managers of all five countries at Under-16 level were suspended.

Further evidence that age-cheating was still alive came earlier this year when Nigerian sports minister Steven Akiga admitted: "We have for a while now been fielding players far above the ages agreed for some of the international age-group competitions. This has not helped our football and as such we must now fight against these age cheats."

Concern...Ghana's 1991 Under-17 win aroused suspicions

This was a particularly significant admission, as Nigeria have won the FIFA Under-17 championship twice, in 1985 and 1993, and were beaten finalists in 1987 and 2001.

In an interview during the Finland tournament, Jack Warner, chairman of the organising committee, admitted to "serious concern" about such cheating. That was the reason for FIFA's sudden decision – taken only two months before the tournament – to introduce MRI wrist scans for three randomly-selected players from each team.

There seems little reason to doubt that the revelations from Asia and Africa led to FIFA's action. No one from FIFA was anxious to talk about the tests, except to stress the results would not be published and what it was trying to do was to build up a database of measurements for future reference.

The X-ray tests used by the Asians did not, said Blatter, meet with FIFA's approval as they involved a possible health risk. The MRI scans are free from this risk – though considerably more expensive, at least £600 per test, compared with £30 for an X-ray. There is also a considerable difference in accuracy; with X-rays the margin of error is about two years, with MRIs it is down to three months.

The feeling was widespread in Finland that the mere announcement of the impending tests had acted as a deterrent to any country that might be considering the use of overage players. The implication was clear enough – the African and Asian countries were forced to clean up their act, with the result that, for the first time in the tournament, all six were knocked out in the first round.

Paul Gardner

Delusional?...Makelele

Claude's case of mistaken identity

I FOUND it hysterical to read that new Chelsea signing Claude Makelele has come out and said that Chelsea are a bigger club than Real Madrid. Did the Chelsea medical staff give him morphine during his medical, or is he just delusional all of the time?

The sad fact is that he is probably not the only one who believes this to be true. The national media, which is based in London anyway, has hyped the club up for years.

But the 'mighty' Chelsea have won the League only once – compare that to the 29 times Real have lifted the Spanish title. Real have also been crowned champions of Europe nine times, whereas Chelsea have never won Europe's top club prize.

Let us not forget that Chelsea were only two weeks away from going bust, and it was only Roman Abramovich's fortune that saved the club.

Sounds to me that Makelele has been left bitter by his departure from the Bernabeu, and is having to justify his decision by making ridiculous claims because he is unsure about Chelsea's chances of winning any trophies this season. If Madrid really wanted Makelele to stay then they would have surely given in to his wage demands.

James Suggett, Tyne & Wear

Gavin Hamilton replies: You're right about Makelele feeling bitter towards Real Madrid – and he has every right to be. He was a key member of the side, yet earned a fraction of the salaries of Zidane, Figo, Beckham and co.

But I would disagree with you about the London-based media favouring Chelsea. Under Ken Bates, Chelsea were arguably the most difficult and obstructive club in England when it came to their dealings with the media. Hence, the UK media have always mistrusted Chelsea – they have certainly not hyped them up.

Abramovich's rescue of Chelsea is an incredible story – and I suspect it is a story that has only just begun.

The American way

GREETINGS from an American soccer fan. Yes, there is such a thing! In your opening comment of the September issue of *World Soccer* you mention that the franchise system is one of many aspects of American sports you find incomprehensible.

This leads me to wonder what it is about that system you take issue with and what other things about our American sporting life you have problems with. Frankly, I think our way of doing things works just fine, thanks. In every issue of your magazine I read of European soccer teams in all kinds of financial disarray, with some, like Fiorentina, disappearing off the face of the Earth. Meanwhile, in my lifetime (27 years) not a single franchise in any of our four major professional sports leagues here has gone belly-up.

From a competitive standpoint our leagues are far superior. In any given year the number of teams that can possibly win the Premiership, Serie A or La Liga can be counted on one hand. And of course it's the same teams – those with the cash.

Over here, even the most downtrodden teams have a chance to improve and eventually compete for titles, while all the money in the world is no guarantee of being able to avoid having a simply dreadful season. The fact that 75 per cent of the teams in Europe never have any chance of competing for a title is just one of the many aspects of European sports I could say I find incomprehensible.

Anyhow, after that rant, I must say that *World Soccer* is simply a terrific publication. For someone serious about following the world game (especially someone trying to follow it from the wrong side of the planet in soccer terms) your magazine is an absolute must-read every month. Keep up the good work.

Brian Daly, Fanwood, New Jersey, USA

Gavin Hamilton replies: I specifically referred to the franchise system as being incomprehensible because it is an element of American sports that could never be transferred across the Atlantic – witness the storm of opposition to Wimbledon's proposed move from South London to Milton Keynes, 70 miles away.

Football clubs in England (and other European countries) are closely rooted in the local communities they serve. It's one of the elements that makes our game so special. I would hate to see that change.

QUIZ mitre

WIN a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football for this month's quiz. The first correct entry selected at random after October 24 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*.

SEND YOUR ENTRY, ON A POSTCARD, TO: OCTOBER QUIZ, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS

THIS MONTH'S POSER:

Name the players who have won the European Cup with two different clubs.

SUMMER CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Nurnberg, 7 Conte, 8 Delon, 9 Vloet, 10 CSKA, 13 Reis, 14 Nouma, 17 Bohme, 18 Moyes, 19 Atalanta.
DOWN: 1 Nice, 2 Ronaldinho, 3 Bremen, 4 Reda, 5 Finnan, 6 Ali Sami Yen, 11 Orebro, 12 Lommel, 15 Gent, 16 Usta.

SUMMER CROSSWORD WINNERS

1st prize: James R Campbell, Ross-shire, Scotland.
5 runners-up: Manfred Fok, Hong Kong; Mark Davies, Fishguard, Wales; Alvin Betson, Tullamore, Rep Ireland; Paul Catchpole, Beccles, Suffolk; Mark Cleaver, Derby.

Please mark your correspondence 'Letters page' and send to:
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Loan sharks

The new rules allowing Premiership clubs to borrow players from one another is open to abuse, says Howard Johnson

Red wedge...Carlton Cole has been farmed out to Charlton for the season

NOBODY DOUBTS THAT Carlton Cole is a genuine Premiership striking prospect. In his handful of first-team appearances for Chelsea over the past two seasons he has shown power, strength, a deftness of touch and a poacher's eye for goal.

If it hadn't been for Roman Abramovich's pipeline pumping more than £110million into Chelsea's transfer kitty in the summer, there's no doubt Cole would have been bare-chested wrestling with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and Eidur Gudjohnsen for a permanent first-team shirt this season.

As it is, though, the 19-year-old was almost off the radar, stranded way behind world-class players such as Hernan Crespo and Adrian Mutu in the new Stamford Bridge pecking order.

But Chelsea have already invested enough in Cole not to want to lose him permanently, and at his age he needs to be getting top-flight experience. That's why he now finds himself in south-east rather than south-west London, wearing not the blue of Chelsea, but the red of Charlton Athletic.

Cole will have plenty of time to get used to finding his way across town, too. He's been dispatched to The Valley not for a month or two, the traditional time frame for a loan deal, but for an entire season. It is immaterial that his registration is held by Chelsea. Cole is Charlton's for the whole season.

The changes to the rulings for loan deals were made during the Premier League's AGM in the summer. "It was an initiative that was tabled by the clubs themselves," says League spokesman Dan Johnson. "Birmingham City proposed allowing loan deals between Premiership clubs for the first time, and the motion was voted through by the other clubs."

A two-thirds majority is needed to pass any motion, though Johnson won't give the exact numbers of who voted for and who against. He maintains that the new regulations – loans of between one month and a year can be agreed between clubs provided that they take no more than four players a season on loan and no more than one player from another club at any one time – are good for everyone.

"Clubs with highly-paid players who aren't getting picked for the first team are glad to get them off their books," he says. "Teams that look as if they may be battling relegation get players they wouldn't normally be able to afford, and middle-ranking teams get to bolster their squads."

The smarter clubs have already taken steps to avoid a high-profile conflict of interest and inevitable PR nightmare. Neither Cole, nor any other player loaned out to a rival by Chelsea, will be able to play against the Blues. That includes £3.45m Alexei Smertin, shipped out to Portsmouth before he had even kicked a ball. A sensible precaution, despite there being no rules actually prohibiting such a thing.

The trouble is, there are much sneakier ways of using the loan system to your advantage. What if towards the end of the season Arsenal loaned Thierry Henry to a club that wasn't in with a shout of winning the title, but just happened to be meeting Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea in their run-in?

Johnson doesn't think it will happen, but with the differentials in League finishing position potentially running into millions – especially when Champions League qualification is at stake – who can really say with any certainty?

Even if you forget all about the financial considerations, many fans are uneasy about these new long-term loan deals. Why? Because they run counter to the spirit of the sport.

Mick McGuire, deputy chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, is not alone when he says that there's a real danger of "losing the identity of your team. It doesn't seem to be in the spirit of what the Premiership is about".

No doubt this intangible sense of discomfort will cut no ice with club chairmen, who, after all the years of feast and financial folly, suddenly can only listen to what the balance sheet tells them. Indeed, the two Davids, Gold and Dein, of Birmingham City and Arsenal respectively, have both gone on record as saying they are very comfortable with the new deal. But that doesn't necessarily mean they are right, either. You get a settled side that includes a loan player, the team learn how to play with him all season, then you meet his employers in a crucial game right at the death and your top man is forced to sit it out.

Does anybody really want to see such a situation? Well, let's be honest, you might if you thought it was the only way your side was going to be able to recruit players of high quality.

It really isn't a problem, according to Johnson. "It's up to individual chairmen and managers to make those decisions on who to bring in, weighing up the pros and cons of each deal," he says. "And, anyway, eight out of our 20 Premiership clubs chose not to pursue any loan deals at all. You have to remember, too, that this same system has been up and running for some time in Italy and Spain without any problems."

There is also the argument that allowing players to move on long-term loans means clubs can meet their playing needs without allowing agents to keep negotiating more permanent signings for more commission – and most fans would vote for that at the drop of a hat.

The Premier League is adamant that the situation will be properly monitored, too. "We constantly keep an eye on how things are working," says Johnson. "Trends or concerns will be examined, though the likelihood is that it would only be done once a year. If you made changes mid-season it would be deeply unfair and would damage the integrity of the competition."

The argument is whether damage has already been done, making people wonder just what the point of supporting a team is when players are owned by one side and yet represent another for an entire season.

The new loan system will only come under microscopic scrutiny, of course, when a club's needs suddenly override their moral obligations and a situation arises that is a clear conflict of interest. We have to hope it never comes to that, of course. But given football's recent history, the portents are not good.

PREMIERSHIP TO PREMIERSHIP LOAN DEALS

JERMAINE PENNANT
Arsenal-Leeds (two months)

CARLTON COLE
Chelsea-Charlton (season)

FRANCIS JEFFERS
Arsenal-Everton (season)

BOUDEWIJN ZENDEN
Chelsea-Middlesbrough (season)

MIKAEL FORSSELL
Chelsea-Birmingham (four months)

DANNY MILLS
Leeds-Middlesbrough (season)

MARKUS BABBEL
Liverpool-Blackburn (season)

PAUL KONCHESKY
Charlton-Tottenham (one month)

CHRIS PERRY
Tottenham-Charlton (one month)

ALEXEI SMERTIN
Chelsea-Portsmouth (season)

Kenyon joins the Roman revolution

CHELSEA, UNDER RUSSIAN billionaire Roman Abramovich, carried on their audacious transfer policy after the transfer window had closed, hiring Peter Kenyon from Manchester United to replace Trevor Birch as chief executive. Kenyon is expected to bring his marketing expertise to Stamford Bridge, as Chelsea seek to emulate the success of United's merchandising operations in the United States and the Far East.

The close of the transfer window on Monday, September 1, signalled the end of the biggest spending spree in world football history. When Claude Makelele agreed his £16million move from Real Madrid, Chelsea had spent an incredible £111m on new players in only nine weeks.

The purchase of the club by Abramovich has shaken the traditional power balance of both English and European football. In the Champions League draw the previous week, for example, Chelsea had been the one club everyone wanted to avoid.

Makelele said: "Everyone in football is talking about Chelsea. It's the same at Madrid. In fact, I think now that Chelsea have the potential to be bigger even than Real Madrid or Manchester United."

The arrival of Makelele may prompt the first signs of unrest among other players. He is clearly a threat to Frank Lampard, the England midfielder who was one of Chelsea's best players last season. Lampard cost Chelsea £12m in 2001 from West Ham. Similarly, Dutchman Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will not enjoy being reserve to Adrian Mutu and Hernan Crespo.

Makelele was the last player in. Birch, hired as a debt specialist, said: "That's the close of business for now. There will be no more signings."

Except, of course, in the boardroom.

Money talks...Romanian Adrian Mutu has joined Roman's legion at Chelsea

CHELSEA SPENDING

Glen Johnson	£6m
Wayne Bridge	£7m
Damien Duff	£17.5m
Geremi	£7.5m
Juan Sebastian Veron	£15m
Joe Cole	£7m
Adrian Mutu	£14.5m
Alexei Smertin (loaned to Portsmouth)	£3.5m
Hernan Crespo	£16.5m
Neil Sullivan	£0.5m
Claude Makelele	£16m
TOTAL:	£111m

THE REST

Man United	£23m
Blackburn	£14m
Liverpool	£9m
Birmingham	£8m
Man City	£6m
Southampton	£5.5m
Tottenham	£5m
Aston Villa	£4.5m
Wolves	£4m
Portsmouth	£3.6m
Everton	£2.8m
Arsenal	£2.6m
Bolton	£2m
Fulham	£1m
Charlton	0
Leicester	0
Newcastle	0
Middlesbrough	0
Leeds	0
TOTAL:	£91m

BELGIUM

Butina saves the day

ATONEMENT CAME SWIFTLY for Club Brugge keeper Tomislav Butina, who had made a terrible blunder within three minutes of his debut – the second leg of Brugge's Champions League third qualifying round tie with Borussia Dortmund – to gift the Germans the initiative.

Two hours later the 29-year-old Croat, bought from Dinamo Zagreb in the summer, made two wonderful saves in a penalty shoot-out to help take his new team into the group stage for the second successive season.

Butina could hardly have got off to a worse start for Brugge. He dallied over a third-minute back pass from Peter Van der Heyden to hand Marcio Amoroso a simple opportunity of wiping out the Belgian champions' 2-1 lead from their home first leg.

Peruvian Andres Mendoza slammed in a free-kick 23 minutes later to put Brugge ahead again on aggregate, but when Brazilian substitute Ewerthon scored for Dortmund with an 86th-minute header, it looked odds on the Germans would prevail in extra-time. The dismissal of outstanding Czech Republic defender David Rozehnal for a second yellow card did nothing to improve Brugge's hopes, but somehow they survived.

It was then up to Butina to prove his worth and confirm that coach Trond Sollied had made the right decision by dropping 40-year-old veteran Dany Verlinden, who had been at fault with Dortmund's goal in the first leg. The Croat was up to the task, saving penalties from Amoroso and Andre Bergdolmo to help Brugge win the shoot-out 4-2.

The team's triumph meant Belgium's two top clubs were competing in the Champions League group stage for the first time. The previous night Anderlecht had added to their 3-1 first leg lead over Wisla Krakow with a 1-0 win in Poland, courtesy of a fine solo goal from Aruna Dindane.

The top of the domestic League had a familiar look after four games – Anderlecht in pole position with a 100 per cent record and Club Brugge second, two points behind. At the bottom, promoted Heusden-Zolder and Charleroi were both still looking for their first goal.

Nicholas Harling

Zero to hero...Butina celebrates Brugge's Champions League victory over Dortmund

Spot on...Galasek puts Ajax through against Grazer

HOLLAND

Ajax wins are hard labour

AJAX ARE FAR below top form, but the results have gone their way at home and in Europe. They won their first three League games in less than convincing fashion to stand second on goal difference behind surprise leaders RKC Waalwijk. In the Champions League, a group stage berth was booked after being taken to extra-time by Grazer AK of Austria in the third qualifying round.

Tomas Galasek's 'silver goal' penalty brought Ajax a 3-2 aggregate victory, though the team laboured in both legs. The Austrians had plenty of chances to put out the four-times European champions, but ran out of steam after having two players sent off in extra-time.

Heerenveen failed to book a UEFA Cup spot after losing 2-1 on aggregate to Spaniards Villarreal in one of the three InterToto Cup final games.

Champions PSV won the Dutch Super Cup for the second year running, beating Cup holders Utrecht 3-1 in a less-than-inspiring encounter.

National coach Dick Advocaat used the August friendly against Belgium to experiment with his forward line. Unhappy about the efficiency of the Ruud Van Nistelrooy-Patrick Kluivert pairing, Advocaat teamed Rafael Van der Vaart with Van Nistelrooy, with Kluivert played as an attacking midfielder. However, the new combination failed to create many chances in the 1-1 draw in Brussels. Ironically, Van Nistelrooy's replacement, Roy Makaay, scored Holland's equaliser after new Ajax signing Wesley Sonck had given Belgium the lead.

After signing Sonck and Jelle Van Damme, Ajax have bought a third Belgian, midfielder Tom Soetaers joining from Roda JC on a four-year contract.

Klaas-Jan Droppert

PORTUGAL

Sporting start with win in new arena

Sporting Lisbon marked the first League match at their new Jose Alvalade XXI stadium by beating Belenenses 4-2. The new arena, built adjacent to the site of the old Jose Alvalade stadium, is the first of the Euro 2004 venues to be completed.

The situation at city rivals Benfica is far less satisfactory. With the old Stadium of Light now demolished, and the new version not due for completion until November, the Lisbon Eagles are being forced to play their home games at the city's Jamor stadium.

Benfica were forced to travel even further afield to host Lazio in the Champions League third qualifying round, the game being played at Oporto's Bessa stadium, home to Boavista. The team lost 1-0 on the night, 4-1 on aggregate, and dropped down into the UEFA Cup.

Benfica have boosted their defence, however, after signing Brazilian international Luisao from Cruzeiro on a six-year contract.

Vitor Oliveira has taken charge of Academica for the second time following the resignation of Artur Jorge, coach since December last year, for what were described as 'personal reasons' after just two League games. Oliveira's previous stint in charge was between 1995 and 1997, when he led the club to promotion.

Alberto da Silva

SWITZERLAND

Sion facing the end

Sion boss Christian Constantin has warned that his club face extinction if they fail to reverse a decision not to grant them a licence to play in the Challenge League (Second Division).

Constantin's comments came after the Football League's arbitration tribunal rejected charges of bias made by Sion against the licencing commission's appeals board. The latter upheld the commission's ruling that Sion should not be granted a licence for the Challenge League but, instead, be demoted to the inter-regional Liga 1 because of their continuing parlous financial situation.

However, Constantin, staking all on reinstatement to the Challenge League, had previously written to the Liga 1 committee withdrawing the club from competing at that level.

Constantin has vowed to continue the fight for justice and says he will now demand a further hearing before a freshly-constituted arbitration panel.

Sion, once the standard bearers of football in the Alpine region, were last season demoted from the top flight to the Second Division because of their murky financial situation.

Wil 1900's Martin Andermatt became the first coaching casualty of the new season when he was dismissed by the club's new Ukrainian owner, Igor Belanov, because of poor results. Wil were bottom with just two points from eight games in the newly restructured 10-team Super League.

The demoralised side did not do any better in their first game under new Ukrainian coach Alexander Savarov, losing 4-1 to St Gallen. The last time the two eastern clubs met, St Gallen were routed 11-3.

Basle notched up their eighth consecutive win when beating champions Grasshopper 4-0 away, stretching their lead over their arch-rivals to 14 points.

Grasshopper's defeat rounded off a disastrous week, having exited the Champions League five days earlier at the hands of AEK Athens.

Hakan Yakin has returned to Basle following the fiasco of his failed transfer to Paris Saint-Germain. The Switzerland forward has recently undergone groin surgery for a double hernia but hopes to be fit for the League leaders' UEFA Cup campaign.

Ivar von Rulach

REP OF IRELAND

St Pat's show there is life after Dolan

St Patrick's Athletic appear to have overcome the departure of coach Pat Dolan after beating Longford Town in the League Cup Final and going top of the Premier Division in the same week.

Few fans gave St Pat's much hope of success this season following Dolan's departure to Cork City in February. But his successor, former assistant Eamonn Collins, has built on the foundations left by his mentor by making a number of astute acquisitions. Ironically, St Pat's took top spot in the League with a 2-0 victory over Dolan's Cork side.

Collins' charges could even do the treble, since they are going well in the FAI Cup, which they have not won since 1961. Their last appearance in the Final was in 1996, which coincidentally was the last time it was played at Lansdowne Road. This year the Final is returning to rugby union's headquarters, after being alternated between Dalymount Park and Tolka Park in recent years.

The disappointing UEFA Cup performances of Derry City and Shelbourne were a blow to the idea that switching the domestic season to the summer would help clubs make a better showing in European competition.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Frick and co held at home

The national side managed only a 2-2 draw in their home friendly against San Marino, having taken an early lead through goals from Mario Frick and Franz Burgmeier. Daniel Hasler, playing his 49th international, had two efforts cleared off the line in the dying minutes.

New coach Walter Hormann moved Frick, usually a forward, into the 'hole' behind the front two, while Sandro Maierhofer was recalled at left-back following the withdrawal through injury of Michael Stocklasa.

FC Vaduz had a disappointing start to their League campaign, winning only one of their first six games in Switzerland's Challenge League, the new name for the second level. Vaduz have failed to gain any bonus points under the novel system introduced in that division. The same two teams face each other on successive match days, with the aggregate winners picking up an extra two points.

Graeme Crawford

Salzburg seek Hassler salvation

Rescue act...Hassler has made a good start with Salzburg

AUSTRIA

FORMER GERMANY MIDFIELDER Thomas Hassler has signed a one-year contract with Salzburg, who hope the 1990 World Cup winner can help lead the club off the bottom of the League following their terrible start to the season.

Hassler, 37, certainly made a convincing debut, helping Salzburg secure a 0-0 draw with champions Austria Wien. It was the hosts' first point of the season after six defeats.

"We needed to sign one or two star players who can help us, and Hassler is the first," said Salzburg boss Rudolf Quehenberger. "He is an experienced and talented player who will lead us back to where we were in spring." Quehenberger was referring to Salzburg's excellent run in the second half of last season that took them from bottom to a UEFA Cup spot.

Hassler, who also won Euro 96 with Germany, joined Salzburg from 1860 Munich. He has also played for Juventus, Roma and Borussia Dortmund. In July, he was in talks with Austrian Second Division team Wacker Tirol, but a deal fell through because of financial disagreements.

Rapid Wien, aiming for their first title since 1996, have set the pace at the top of the table, taking 17 points from their first seven games to lead second-placed Grazer AK by four points.

Harry Miltner

DENMARK

Esbjerg's ship comes in

ESBJERG, BEST KNOWN as the little fishing port where the ferries sail into Denmark, is in the grip of football fever. The modest club have enjoyed a magnificent start to the season, topping the Superliga as the only unbeaten side after six rounds, and waltzing into the first round of the UEFA Cup, in which they have drawn Moscow Spartak.

Not since they were Danish champions in 1979, back in the old amateur days, have Esbjerg hit such heights, but it is no fluke. Four wins and two draws put them a point ahead of both Brondby and FC Copenhagen in the League, while Andorra's Santa Coloma were effortlessly dispensed with in the UEFA Cup qualifying round, 9-1 on aggregate.

The club's progress has been based on a strong youth programme, with 10 of the squad aged 22 or under. Most prominent is Denmark Under-21 striker Tommy Bechmann, who has scored six goals in six games having rejected a move abroad over the summer, and young midfielder Jan Kristiansen, also attracting overseas attention.

Losing players abroad is a fact of life for clubs like Esbjerg, but director Niels Erik Sondergaard says the aim is to sell only one good player every couple of years. "We are under no pressure at the moment," he says. "We foster our own talent and keep them as long as possible."

FC Copenhagen suffered a major setback when they failed to reach the group stage of the Champions League despite having drawn 1-1 away to Rangers in the first leg of their qualifying tie. A 2-1 defeat in the return brought soul-searching at the ambitious club, and a 1-0 win over Brondby in the Superliga was scant consolation.

Jim Holden

Priceless...Bechmann's six goals in six games have lifted Esbjerg

NORWAY

Rosenborg fired up by Euro exit

Rosenborg's failure to qualify for a ninth consecutive Champions League group stage appearance has given coach Aage Hareide an even stronger incentive to win both the domestic League and Cup. The Trondheim club went out after two tough matches against Deportivo La Coruna which produced only one goal, though Rosenborg could only blame themselves for their inability to score at home in the first leg.

However, there is no doubt they will claim their 12th successive domestic championship, having established a 12-point lead with seven games to go.

Two struggling clubs have parted company with their coach as the run-in approaches. First out was Tromso's Trond Johansen, to be replaced by Terje Skarsfjord for a second spell in charge. His impact was immediate, with a much more aggressive Tromso winning their first three matches under his tutelage.

Teitur Thordarson resigned from Oslo's Lyn, last year's surprise package, after his disgruntled players appeared unwilling to pull together for the fight against relegation. To much surprise, assistant coach Sture Fladmark was overlooked for the top job, owner Atle Brynestad opting to appoint Tommy Berntsen as player-manager.

National coach Nils Johan Semb used the friendly against Scotland in Oslo to introduce more creative midfield play. However, while Stabaek's Martin Andresen put in a brilliant performance as the Norwegians dominated, lacklustre Scotland held out for a 0-0 draw.

Semb has announced he will step down after the Euro 2004 finals, or this winter if Norway do not qualify.

Sigurd Odegaard

FINLAND

Malinen to quit nearly-men MyPa

MyPa coach Juha Malinen is to step down at the end of the season after six years in charge of Finnish football's perennial nearly-men. Over the past decade MyPa have finished League runners-up five times and third on three occasions but have never won the championship. This season they look like missing out again.

Malinen, one of Finland's most outspoken coaches, has shown his abilities in recent weeks, however. MyPa produced one of the best European showings by a Finnish team in recent years when beating Switzerland's Young Boys 5-4 on aggregate in the UEFA Cup qualifying round.

"We could have done better in the League if we had signed more ready-made players," said Malinen. "But our policy has been to make young players better and mould them into a working combination."

League leaders Haka's long unbeaten run ended in a shock 1-0 home defeat by lowly Jokerit.

National Under-21 coach Kari Ukkonen will coach TPS Turku next term.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

KR triumph as Fylkir fall

The championship race, which had looked like being one of the tightest ever, ended not so much with a bang as a whimper as defending champions KR swept in with two games to spare.

They were helped by the sudden slump of Reykjavik rivals and long-time leaders Fylkir, whose hopes imploded following three successive defeats, one of them to KR and by a resounding 4-0.

Fylkir also disappointed in Europe, being held to a 0-0 draw in their UEFA Cup home encounter with Sweden's AIK having trailed 1-0 after the first leg.

Grindavik also failed to reach the UEFA Cup first round having been poised to go through on away goals against Karnten only for the Austrians to score with the last kick of the game to snatch a 3-2 aggregate win.

The national side stumbled to a 2-1 Euro 2004 qualifying victory in the Faroe Islands in August, but the result put them top of Group 5, the first time they had been in pole position in a major tournament qualifying group.

Rab Christie

WALES

Barry crumble into administration

Champions Barry Town are to go into administration after debts of nearly £1million were revealed. Years of financial mismanagement have resulted in the club being unable to pay players' wages, and the entire championship-winning squad have now left.

A new, local consortium was formed to take over the running of the club as talks with the administrators were set to get under way.

Barry were granted a postponement of their second League match of the season because of the crisis, but the Premier League then insisted fixtures were fulfilled. A scratch team, drawn from the 100-plus local amateurs who came forward to offer their services, were thrashed 8-0 at Caernarfon Town.

Bangor City were the early leaders despite going down 2-1 at Total Network Solutions, whose takeover of Oswestry Town is now complete.

Mel Thomas

NORTHERN IRELAND

Coleraine in Euro collapse

Coleraine's hopes of becoming the first Irish League club in eight years to win a European tie were dashed after a 5-0 UEFA Cup defeat by Uniao Leiria of Portugal. Coleraine, 2-1 up from the first leg, folded in the last half-hour and had a player sent off in each half.

Portadown, Northern Ireland's other UEFA Cup representatives, went down 6-0 on aggregate to Malmo.

Linfield have signed Kenny Irons (ex-Tranmere and Huddersfield), Aidan O'Kane (York) and Phil Charnock (ex-Crewe and Port Vale); Glentoran bought national Under-21 midfielder Gavin Melaugh (ex-Aston Villa and Rochdale).

Roy Kitson

SCOTLAND

Old Firm help restore reputation

Read all about it...Barry Ferguson's departure from Rangers is headline news in Scotland

RANGERS AND CELTIC'S qualification for the group stage of the Champions League has provided Scottish football with a much-needed credibility boost and can only enhance the country's tarnished reputation at this level.

Rangers progressed after a 3-2 aggregate win over FC Copenhagen, but their European ambitions were dealt a blow when club captain Barry Ferguson joined Blackburn, despite having recently signed a five-year contract with Rangers. He now joins former Ibrox team-mates Lorenzo Amoruso and Tugay at Ewood Park.

Celtic, comfortable 5-0 aggregate winners over MTK of Hungary, have taken Sunderland full-back Michael Gray on a four-month loan.

The domestic season began in traditional fashion, with the Old Firm stamping their authority on the Premier League. Hearts appear best equipped to deliver some kind of challenge, but Aberdeen and Dundee United appear to have run up the white flag already. After four games, they had amassed just one point between them.

Alan Fairley

Clouded reign...Soderberg

SWEDEN

Soderberg set to leave

CO-NATIONAL COACH Tommy Soderberg has announced that he will retire after Euro 2004, or earlier should Sweden fail to get there, leaving in doubt the future of his partner, Lars Lagerback, and sparking much speculation about likely successors.

Soderberg, who took sole charge in 1998, has helped steer Sweden to the finals of two major tournaments. But the reign of the well-liked and respected 'players' coach has been somewhat clouded by the promotion of Lagerback to be his equal partner just before Euro 2000.

Few Swedes have seen the benefit of this arrangement. Initially, it looked radical, but the pair's continual preaching of the virtues of collective teamwork has a dated feel, while performances have invariably been conservative if not tedious.

Lagerback seems unlikely to continue alone. He is a tactical expert but seems ill-suited to other aspects of the top job, such as dealing with the media. Among the names already being touted to take over the role are current Under-21 coach Torbjorn Nilsson and Rosenborg's Aage Hareide.

Sweden captain Patrik Andersson has also announced his international retirement. The Barcelona stopper, now 32, won 96 caps in a career that began in 1997.

Helsingborgs' decision to sell striker Alvaro Santos to FC Copenhagen has been a blow to the prestige of the Swedish League. The skilful Brazilian was one of the few crowd-pleasing stars on the domestic scene. However, hard-up Helsingborgs have to sell to survive.

Pentti Hietanen

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Partizan make historic progress

AGAINST THE ODDS, but not undeservedly, Partizan Belgrade defeated Newcastle in the Champions League third qualifying round to become the first club from Serbia & Montenegro to reach the group stage.

Only time will tell whether or not it was coach Lothar Matthaus who made the difference. But one thing is for sure. The engagement of the German has already paid off, given that the income from Champions League participation exceeds the club's annual budget.

Partizan beat the Premiership side 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 aggregate draw and now face Real Madrid, FC Porto and Marseille in their group.

The national team won their first game for 10 months when beating Wales 1-0 in Belgrade in a Euro 2004 qualifier. It also meant that Ilija Petkovic got off to a winning start in his second spell in charge of the team. The coach played down the victory, saying: "Nothing big happened. We won versus Wales," and it is true that the result offered little extra hope of Serbia & Montenegro qualifying for next year's finals. However, the successes against Wales and Newcastle did represent an excellent start to the new season.

Vladimir Novak

Hitting the spot...Partizan's Damir Cakar fires his penalty past Shay Given during the shoot-out

Building site...Olympiakos' new stadium starts to take shape

GREECE

Construction work forces clubs into exile

WITH ALL THE construction work going on in preparation for next year's Olympics, several top Greek clubs have had to move to temporary homes.

Champions Olympiakos are playing home matches at Athens' Rizoupoli stadium, base of Second Division Apollon, while their Karaiskaki ground is being rebuilt; AEK Athens have vacated the Nikos Goumas arena for Panionios' stadium; and Salonika sides Iraklis and Aris are based at Second Division grounds while their shared Kaftatzoglio stadium is being refurbished.

While construction work at both the Karaiskaki and Kaftatzoglio stadiums is on schedule, AEK could be banished from their home for a much longer period, with the Nikos Goumas unlikely to be finished in time for the Olympics. Greece's highest court has accepted a petition by the authorities in Nea Philadelphia, the Athens suburb where the stadium is located, calling for the suspension of construction work until November 5. The petition claims environmental damage will be done to the area by the building project. The November date is when the court will discuss the petition, with a final ruling not expected before January.

Aris have appointed youth team boss Giorgos Mihalitsios as coach. He replaces Giorgos Firos, who resigned because of the club's financial problems.

Lou Economopoulos

CROATIA

Hajduk fans dig for victories

Hajduk Split supporters have found a novel way of protesting against their team's indifferent start to the season – sneaking into the stadium overnight and digging up the pitch. Reports from those who surveyed the scene the next morning suggested that some of the holes had been dug with the dimensions of graves and tagged with the names of 11 players and nine board members.

The fans took their action in the wake of a shock 4-1 home defeat by newly-promoted Inker in the League and a 2-1 loss away to Finland's FC Haka in the first leg of their UEFA Cup qualifying round tie. Hajduk did, in fact, go through to the next round on away goals with a 1-0 win in the return, but it has been the way they have performed that has so upset supporters.

Hajduk started the campaign without three key players from last season – international keeper Stipe Pletikosa, highly talented forward Milan Rapajic and last term's best player, Darijo Srna.

Without them, Hajduk have been unrecognisable, and their plight has been made to look even worse by the good domestic form of arch-rivals Dinamo Zagreb. The defending champions won five of their first six League games – including a 1-0 victory over Hajduk – to lead the table by four points from the Split team.

Dinamo's League progress is some consolation for their emphatic elimination from the Champions League, 5-1 on aggregate to their namesakes from Kyiv.

The Hajduk supporters have clearly set a trend, since Osijek's pitch has also received digging damage after the team suffered defeats in the opening games.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Blazevic blames his tools

Mura fans' belief that their previously unheralded team could mount a title challenge this season soon disappeared following some chastening defeats.

The optimism stemmed from the arrival of legendary Croat coach Miroslav Blazevic and the spending power of president Georg Suban, who funded the purchase of a whole tranche of new players this summer.

However, results such as the 4-0 home defeat by Olimpija Ljubljana and an away loss to League leaders Primorje by the same scoreline has forced sights to be set lower.

Mura took seven points from their first seven games, prompting Blazevic, who joined from Croat champions Dinamo Zagreb, to say: "I thought I would have better players at my disposal. God help me, why did I come?"

Despite the anguish of the former Croatian national team coach, which was exacerbated by the fact that the bosses of two of Mura's conquerers are compatriots, he is not yet thinking about giving up. No doubt, the fact that he banked £180,000 on joining Mura with much more income in prospect will help prevent any sudden departure.

The federation has taken the unusual step of changing the format of this season's League championship with the campaign already under way.

The 12 top division teams kicked off on the understanding that they would play each other three times in a 33-round programme. Now the model used in Croatia has been adopted: after playing each other twice (22 rounds), the division will split into two groups of six, with teams playing each of their group rivals twice (10 rounds).

Olimpija's hopes of challenging for the League title were dealt a blow when the federation awarded their 0-0 home draw with HIT Gorica as a 3-0 defeat after Olimpija fielded Bostjan Kreft, who had not been named in the official squad for the game.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Player banned for knocking out ref

Brotnjo player Andrija Susac has been suspended for nine months for knocking a referee unconscious during a League game.

The incident happened just before half-time in the match at Siroki Brijeg after the official, Franjo Bandic, had allowed a controversial Brijeg goal to stand. Brotnjo players, who considered the goal to have been clearly offside, surrounded the referee, who fell to the ground when butted by Susac.

The game was abandoned with Siroki Brijeg leading 3-2, and the federation awarded them a 3-0 win.

Orasje and Zepce Limorad were the unfamiliar names at the top of the table after five rounds. However, the title is still predicted to be a fight between two Sarajevo teams – Zeljeznicar and Sarajevo – with defending champions Leotar and Siroki Brijeg also in with a shout.

Zdravko Reic

MALTA

Held calls it quits

Siegfried Held has said that Malta's final Euro 2004 qualifier against Israel would be his last as national coach.

The German, who took over in June 2001, has seen his side lose all seven previous qualifiers in Group 1.

Midfielder Joe Brincat did not wait for the final game, announcing his international retirement with immediate effect. The 33-year-old won 102 caps, scoring five goals.

On the field, Malta drew 1-1 with Luxembourg in their August friendly.

In the UEFA Cup, Valletta and Birkirkara both went out in the qualifying round, losing to Neuchatel Xamax of Switzerland and Hungary's Ferencvaros respectively. However, Birkirkara made a good start on the domestic front, winning the pre-season Lowenbrau Cup and beating Pieta Hotspurs 3-2 away on the opening day of the League campaign. The team have been boosted by the signing of Adrian Ciantar from Hibernians.

By contrast, champions Sliema Wanderers made a dreadful start in the League, being held to a 2-2 draw at Marsaxlokk on the opening day then crashing 4-1 at home to promoted Msida St Joseph.

Domenico Aquilina

Vardar exit with pride

All smiles...Rogerio Da Costa (left) after scoring v Barry

MACEDONIA

VARDAR BECAME THE first Macedonian side to reach the third qualifying round of the Champions League after beating Barry Town of Wales then securing a heroic 3-2 aggregate win over Russian League runners-up CSKA Moscow. Despite subsequent elimination at the hands of Sparta Prague, Vardar were handed a plum tie against Roma as they dropped into the UEFA Cup.

Domestic Cup-winners Cementarnica also made progress in the UEFA Cup, eliminating Katowice of Poland on away goals after a 1-1 draw to set up a tie against Lens of France. Belasica, however, were humbled 12-2 by Slovenians Publikum.

Dragan Kanatlarovski has been appointed national team caretaker coach after the dismissal of Nikola Ilievski. Kanatlarovski, previously in charge between September 1999 and May 2001, will hold the reins until the end of the year, when a full-time appointment will be made.

He made an immediate impact, his new charges beating Albania 3-1 in a friendly, having recalled key players sidelined by Ilievski. Back came Georgi Hristov, the national team's all-time top scorer, Igor Mitreski, Igor Gjuzelov and Goran Stavrevski. "There are not old and young players, only good and bad ones," said Kanatlarovski. "Anyone who deserves a place will be called up."

Michel Stojmanovski

POLAND

Olisadebe: 'I'm no feigner'

FORWARD EMMANUEL OLISADEBE has vehemently denied an accusation by national team captain Tomasz Hajto that he has faked injuries at the time of international matches because "he is not interested in playing for Poland any longer". The Nigeria-born Panathinaikos striker, who took Polish citizenship in 2000, described Hajto's suggestion as "a nonsense". Olisadebe added that the Polish national team was still the most important for him, and said he was "waiting for Hajto's official apology".

The spat overshadowed Poland's recent 2-1 friendly victory over Estonia, from which Olisadebe was again absent. The forward has won 24 caps and scored 11 goals for the national team, but appeared in only five of their 12 games last season.

Wisla Krakow's 4-1 aggregate defeat at the hands of Anderlecht in the Champions League third qualifying round means Poland are without group stage representatives for the seventh consecutive season. Wisla's exit came after they failed to find adequate replacements for three key players, lost over the summer: Kamil Kosowski (now at Kaiserslautern), Marcin Kuzba (Olympiakos) and Kalu Uche (suspended).

The champions now meet Holland's NEC in the UEFA Cup first round, in which Poland's other remaining representatives, Groclin Dyskobolia Grodzisk, face Hertha Berlin. Groclin beat Lithuania's Atlantas 6-1 on aggregate in the qualifying round, but Wisla Plock and Katowice both exited on away goals, to Latvia's Ventspils and Macedonia's Cementarnica respectively.

Gornik Leczna were the surprise League leaders after four rounds, having just embarked on their first top-flight campaign. Leczna is a small eastern town, with a population of just 22,000, and the club continues to operate largely thanks to the support of the local coal mine ('gornik' means 'miner').

Dariusz Kurowski

Missing from action...Emmanuel Olisadebe

New appointment...Georgi Yartsev

RUSSIA

Yartsev in for Gazzayev

GEORGI YARTSEV HAS replaced Valeri Gazzayev to become the sixth Russian national team coach since the break-up of the Soviet Union. Each of his predecessors – Pavel Sadyrin (1992-94), Oleg Romantsev (1994-96 and 1999-02), Boris Ignatiev (1996-98), Anatoli Byshovets (1998) and Gazzayev (2002-03) – had his moments of glory and his moment of disgrace, when local fans and media asked for the manager's head after another Russian flop on the international scene.

Gazzayev's emotional resignation looked absurd because it followed his team's loss in a friendly game. The home match against Israel, which the visitors won 2-1, was meant to be no more than a warm-up for the autumn Euro 2004 qualifiers against the Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and Georgia. Gazzayev himself treated it like one, having replaced some of his top players during the course of the game since the result did not matter much. But he quit his post immediately after the final whistle.

Yartsev, a former striker and coach with Moscow Spartak, was appointed in the hope he can restore the national team's fortunes following humiliating Euro 2004 defeats by Albania and Georgia. The 55-year-old was an assistant to Romantsev at Spartak during the 1990s when the team were perennial champions. He became team manager himself in 1996 after Romantsev decided to concentrate on his national team duties. Spartak kept on winning, but after Romantsev's return, Yartsev left to coach Dinamo Moscow and then Rotor Volgograd. He did not find success at either club, and indeed has held no high level coaching position since summer 2000.

As for Gazzayev, he has retained his position as coach of CSKA Moscow, who have stayed top in the League despite some lacklustre performances and a shock loss to Moscow underdogs Torpedo-Metallurg.

Victor Gusev

CZECH REPUBLIC

Surprise duo on top

The League table had an unfamiliar look after six games, with Moravians Banik Ostrava and Brno out in front.

Ostrava have assembled an impressive-looking team, partly by gambling on players who have failed to make the grade abroad. Midfielder Martin Cizek and playmaker Radek Sloncik both struggled with injuries during spells in Germany and Hungary respectively but have made significant contributions since returning home. Striker Marek Heinz has repaid Ostrava's faith with five goals in his first five games having returned to the Czech Republic from the Bundesliga over the summer with a reputation for being 'difficult'.

Brno's form is more surprising, since with the exception of new signing Petr Svancara, last season's top scorer in the Second Division, their young line-up is little changed from that which struggled to avoid relegation last term.

Both teams have benefited from the relatively poor start of Prague's big two, Sparta and Slavia. Sparta drew four of their opening six matches, while Slavia's season went into a tailspin following a 3-0 defeat by Celta Vigo in the first leg of the Champions League third qualifying round. Reaching the group stage had been a priority for both teams but only Sparta, courtesy of a laboured 5-4 aggregate win over Macedonia's Vardar Skopje, were successful. Slavia came close to turning things around in the second leg against Celta, scoring two early goals, but were unable to find the equaliser.

Slavia again showed a lack of killer instinct in the first 'Prague S' derby of the season, at Sparta's renamed Toyota Arena stadium on August 30. Sparta were reduced to 10 men after 11 minutes following Martin Zboncak's dismissal, but held out for a 0-0 draw.

Significantly, the day after Slavia knew they had lost out on Champions League group stage revenue, they sold midfielder Rudolf Skacel to Marseille.

Sam Beckwith

Buriak clinging on

Job on the line...Leonid Buriak

UKRAINE

NATIONAL COACH Leonid Buriak has clung on to his job despite the support of only three of the federation's 24-strong executive committee in a vote on his future. He survived only because it had been agreed that any decision must be unanimous. Buriak's fate was set to be reviewed after the two September Euro 2004 qualifiers against Northern Ireland and Spain.

The 50-year-old coach found himself out of favour after his team lost yet again, this time 2-0 to Romania in an August friendly. "I'm very surprised by Buriak's decision to stay," said federation president Hryhorii Surkis. "He will continue with an enormous amount of mistrust."

Shakhtar Donetsk will extend German coach Bernd Schuster's contract despite him failing to steer them into the Champions League group phase after a 3-2 aggregate defeat by Lokomotiv Moscow. "Of course I was disappointed," said president Rinat Akhmetov. "But Schuster did the right thing psychologically afterwards. He did not blame anyone and next day asked the players to turn their minds to new challenges. I'm convinced we have a solid and promising team."

Certainly, Shakhtar have been performing well in the domestic League, maintaining their 100 per cent record with a seventh straight win.

Kyiv Dynamo, five points behind Shakhtar, did make it to the Champions League proper after beating Dinamo Zagreb 5-1 on aggregate. They immediately increased their attacking potential by signing Argentinian forward Roberto Nanni from Velez Sarsfield for £3.2 million.

Vorskla's Andriy Bal became the second coaching casualty of the season, with his side mired in the bottom half of the table. His replacement is former CSKA Moscow coach Oleg Dolmatov. Karpaty then fired Serb Ivan Golac after some poor results, replacing him with the experienced Miron Markevich.

Oleg Zadernovsky

SLOVAKIA

Plum tie for Puchov

Matador Puchov have been handed the biggest tie in their history by being drawn against Barcelona in the UEFA Cup.

The domestic Cup holders, whose ground has a capacity of just 6,000, have said they will play the home leg at either Spartak Trnava's 18,000-capacity stadium or champions MSK Zilina's 6,200 all-seater Pod Dubnom ground.

Zilina, who lost 5-0 on aggregate to Chelsea in the third qualifying round of the Champions League, are confident about facing Utrecht in the UEFA Cup despite struggling in the opening games of the domestic League season.

Artmedia Petrzalka, 2-0 aggregate victors over F91 Dudelange of Luxembourg, have been handed a tougher tie, against Bordeaux.

Robert Vittek has finally left struggling Slovan Bratislava, joining German Second Division side Nurnberg on a one-year loan. The striker made it clear before the end of last season that he wanted to move abroad.

Ed Holt

HUNGARY

Fradi docked six points

Ferencvaros, the country's biggest club, have had six points deducted as part of the punishment for their fans' violent pitch invasion during a home championship-deciding match at the end of last season.

The club were also fined £100,000 and were forced to play their first three home League games behind closed doors. The points reduction left Ferencvaros with minus four points, but they have since hit back, largely thanks to two penalties from newcomer Zoltan Gera. One earnt a draw at biggest rivals Ujpest, the other secured a 2-1 victory over champions MTK.

The title-holders have gone in reverse after a promising start. The defeat by 'Fradi' came within a few days of a shockingly inept display at home to Celtic in the Champions League third qualifying round. MTK lost 4-0 and ultimately 5-0 on aggregate.

Zalaegerszeg, the 2002 champions, started even more disastrously than Ferencvaros, losing all of their first five games. Not surprisingly, they dismissed coach Peter Bozsik, with their former player Istvan Mihalecz coming in as his replacement.

Peterjon Cresswell

BULGARIA

Coaches leave early

There were three early-season coaching casualties, with Slavia Sofia, Spartak Varna and Litex Lovech all left looking for new men. Miodrag Jesic stepped down at Slavia after his side lost 3-0 to promoted Makedonska slava, while Miroslav Mironov left Spartak Varna. Lovech have appointed Dragolub Simonovic as the successor to Ferario Spasov, who was sacked after the team were surprisingly knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Moldova's Zimbru Chisinau. Simonovic, who arrives from second level club Belite Orli, was a key member of the Lovech side that won the championship in 1998 and 1999.

Michael Bowesfield

MOLDOVA

Curtain falls on Curtianu

Alexandr Curtianu, the best Moldovan player of his generation and a former national team captain, has decided to retire. The 29-year-old has now joined the coaching staff of Zimbru Chisinau, one of his former clubs.

Curtianu never managed to recapture his top form following a street attack by a gang in St Petersburg several years ago when he was based in the city with Russian top division side Zenit.

He numbered Widzew Lodz of Poland, Hamburg and another Russian side, Torpedo-ZIL, among his other clubs.

Miron Goihman

Perfect start for busy Boca

...but Bianchi's men must beware fixture log-jam

Playing it from memory...Guillermo Barros Schelotto

ARGENTINA

BOCA JUNIORS WERE the only top division side with a 100 per cent record after five rounds of the opening championship, though they themselves had completed only three games. The Libertadores Cup holders postponed a match against Banfield while they went on tour to Spain, and their fifth round game, at home to Chacarita Juniors, was suspended in the 69th minute because of crowd violence with Boca leading 2-0.

Boca's success will breed fixture congestion. As well as their mid-season trip to Spain, they are set to compete in the Sudamericana Cup and then face Milan in the World Club Cup in Tokyo in November.

That said, coach Carlos Bianchi is benefiting from having kept a relatively stable squad. "The good thing is that with the same players, we can play almost by memory," says striker Guillermo Barros Schelotto.

Two stalwarts have departed – defender Hugo Ibarra and striker Marcelo Delgado – but the team now have talented Brazilian forward Iarley in their ranks.

Boca did attempt to sign two old boys – Martin Palermo and Juan Roman Riquelme – but may well count themselves lucky the moves fell through if River Plate's experience with re-signing former players is anything to go by. River were only 14th in the table with just one win from five games having persuaded midfielder Marcelo Gallardo and Chilean striker Marcelo Salas to return. Gallardo has been sidelined by injury for over a month, while Salas, also troubled by injury, appears unable to find his previous form.

River, the 2002-03 closing champions, have hardly been helped by the sale of Andres D'Alessandro and Martin Demichelis to German clubs, while they could not afford to renew the loan contract of prolific scorer Esteban Fuertes. The latter's departure, to Colon Santa Fe, has been all the more galling for River since his goals have helped Colon challenge for top spot.

There were 450 police on duty at the Boca-Chacarita match, but their lack of action to prevent fans fighting has fuelled rumours they are happy for hooliganism to continue since they are paid extra for duty at matches. The fans broke down barriers and smashed seats, resulting in 71 injuries, but not one arrest was made.

Daniel Grinbank, the businessman behind Independiente's 2002 opening championship triumph, has fallen out with the club and bought 86 per cent of shares in Spanish Second Division club Leganes.

Aiming for the top flight, he has signed 16 Argentinian players, most with First Division experience, brought in an Argentinian coach, Carlos Aimar, and appointed former national team technical director Jose Pekerman as general manager. All except one of the new players have European passports, so the team do not fall foul of Spain's limit on non-European Union players.

Eric Weil

I'm in trouble...Leo Beenhakker's America were without a win in five games

Favourites fail to raise spark

MEXICO

NONE of the opening championship favourites had exactly come alive after five rounds, though there were encouraging signs from two of them.

Toluca lost their opening game, at home to Atlante, then took 10 points from their next four to go top of Group 1. Cruz Azul appear to have spent wisely on Cesar and Marcelo Delgado, who are performing well under former national team boss Enrique Meza.

Morelia, last season's runners-up and another of the pre-season tips, have struggled to make their expensively assembled team gel; Tigres UNL showed their championship potential by thrashing Gallos Blancos 7-1 away, then lost 2-0 at promoted Irapuato.

The latter, who had the most points of any club after five rounds, are not a rich club, and their early success cocks a snook at the country's wealthier teams, who have spent heavily on imported players. By contrast, Irapuato are relying on a combination of veterans and those who helped them to promotion.

The perennially-disappointing Tecos UAG have finally shown signs of improvement, leading Group 3 with 10 points under new coach Eduardo Acevedo, a former player and youth team coach at the club.

All the negative expectations surrounding the return of Leo Beenhakker to America have been fulfilled. The team were without a win in five games under the veteran Dutch coach, who has already been forced on to the defensive. "It takes time to build a winning team," he says, but the truth is America are suffering after years of mismanagement and profligate spending.

Scant consolation for America fans is the slump of eternal rivals Guadalajara, the most popular club in the country but rooted at the bottom of Group 4 having lost three games in a row.

Carlos Ramirez

LIBERTADORES CUP

Mexicans welcomed into the fold

THE LIBERTADORES CUP will be increased from 32 to 36 clubs next year, mainly to allow Mexico – a lucrative area in terms of TV audience – two permanent places.

Two Mexican clubs have participated in each tournament since 1997 but have been forced to play in a preliminary round with two Venezuelan clubs for the chance to reach the first round proper. Now the preliminary round has been abolished, and Venezuela handed three first-round group places, the same as all the other South American countries except Argentina and Brazil, whose allocation has been increased from four to five.

The 2004 edition, worth £950,000 to the winners, will have nine groups of four playing each other home and away, with the winners qualifying directly for the second round together with the five second-placed teams with the best records. The other four second-placed teams will play off for the two remaining places.

The tournament, which was first played in 1960 with just seven clubs, had increased to 21 by 1966 – two from each of the 10 South American countries plus the previous year's champions. The increase to 32 clubs came in 2000.

One of Argentina's five places in the 2004 edition will go automatically to holders Boca Juniors. However, next year's champions will automatically qualify for the 2005 tournament, when there will be 37 clubs participating.

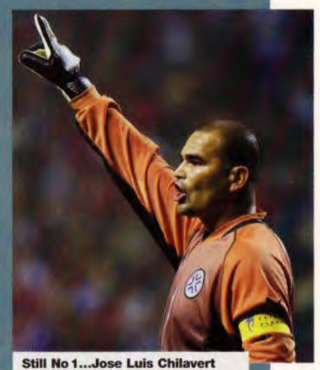
Eric Weil

ROUND-UP

- Olimpia beat Cerro Porteno 1-0 in the big Asuncion derby to move up to third place in PARAGUAY'S closing championship. Cerro Porteno lay second, with defending champions Libertad top.

- The Strongest were finally declared BOLIVIAN opening champions after the League's disciplinary committee threw out an appeal by Jorge Wilstermann to have them stripped of the title. Wilstermann claimed The Strongest used more than the permitted four foreign players in a game against them. However, The Strongest said one of the players, Argentina-born Luis Cristaldo, became a Bolivian citizen 10 years ago and had even played for the national team. The champions extended their unbeaten run to 14 games once the closing campaign got under way, but it was ended by a 2-1 defeat by Oriente Petrolero.

- The Colo Colo-Universidad de Chile derby in the CHILEAN capital Santiago was suspended with 34 minutes to go because of crowd violence. Police made 168 arrests, while Universidad's Nelson Pinto almost lost an eye when a piece of wood was thrown at him from the stands. Santiago's national stadium, the venue for the game, is likely to be closed for five matches.


Still No 1...Jose Luis Chilavert

- Veteran Paraguayan keeper Jose Luis Chilavert kept three clean sheets as Penarol won their first four games of the URUGUAYAN closing championship to go top.

- Ivan Valenciano became the COLOMBIAN League's all-time leading scorer when his two goals in Deportivo Quindio's 3-1 win over Centauros took his career total to 213, eclipsing Argentina-born Hugo Londero's best of 211.

Eric Weil

Al Ain delayed-action heroes

AL AIN of the United Arab Emirates finally won through to the Final of the inaugural Asian Champions League with a 7-6 aggregate win over Dalian Shide of China. Bruno Metsu's side, 4-2 up from the first leg in April, had to wait four months to complete the tie because of fears over the SARS virus. A goal by Iran striker Farhad Majidi three minutes from time put Al Ain through despite a 4-3 defeat in a nailbiting second leg in China. They face Thailand's BEC Tero Sasana in the Final in October.

There had been some doubt about whether Majidi and Al Ain's other new signing, Rodrigo Mendes, would be available for the second leg. Tournament rules state players must have been signed three months before appearing in the competition, which had meant the exclusion of players such as Romario and Jorge Albertz earlier in the tournament. However, the Asian Football Confederation ruled that Majidi, signed on loan for a year from Al Wasl, and Mendes, who joined from Japan's Oita Trinita, were eligible despite having been at Al Ain for only a few weeks.

The rulings further disadvantaged a Dalian side that went into the game without regular first-choice goalkeeper An Qi and coach Milorad Kosanovic. Both were forced to watch from the stands after being sent off controversially in the first leg.

However, backed by a partisan crowd of over 40,000, Dalian set about hauling themselves back. Wang Peng made it 1-0 on the day and 4-3 overall in the 27th minute to give Dalian hope. Mendes, though, restored Al Ain's two-goal advantage just before half-time and Mohammed Omar looked to have put things beyond Dalian in the 65th minute, converting Mendes' cross to make it 6-3 on aggregate.

Zoran Jankovic pulled one back for Dalian but, even at 6-4, all seemed lost. Then the 80th-minute dismissal of Al Ain skipper Fahd Ali swung the game in the hosts' favour, and two late strikes by veteran Chinese international Hao Haidong looked to have set up extra-time before Majidi's decisive intervention.

It was not the first time the Iranian had had a hand in ending Dalian's continental ambitions. In 1999 he was a member of the Esteghlal team that put the Chinese champions out of the Asian Club Championship at the same stage.

"I feel extremely sorry for the fans who turned up to support us," said Kosanovic. "The fans have always been a big part of our team and they were beautiful tonight. They never stopped getting behind us.

"We don't have a problem with the team just because we lost this match. We looked jaded as the game wore on and we were always second to the 50-50 ball."

Michael Church

Jump to it...Al Ain's Fakher Humaid beats Wang Peng of Dalian in the semi-final

Well-balanced...Tsuboi is a key man for Urawa Reds

JAPAN

Reds stake their claim

URAWA REDS threw down the gauntlet in the J.League's Second Stage with a resounding 3-1 win over champions Jubilo Iwata. Tatsuya Tanaka set up Emerson for Reds' first two goals, and the Brazilian returned the favour in added time.

The signing of Russia defender Yuri Nikiforov from Dutch side RKC Waalwijk has plugged the final gap in this well-balanced team, which also boasts Australian Ned Zelic and national team defenders Keisuke Tsuboi and Nobuhisa Yamada.

Hans Ooft, who led Japan in the 1994 World Cup qualifying campaign, shares the coaching with old friend and team-mate Wim Jansen, the former Celtic boss. The duo have introduced a counter-attacking game that promises to pay dividends.

The stage could be the most open in recent years, as Kashima Antlers and Jubilo, the League's two biggest teams, both look off-colour. Both sides suffered fresh setbacks during the break, with Antlers striker Atsushi Yanagisawa moving to Sampdoria and Jubilo midfielder Toshjiya Fujita to Utrecht.

Nagoya Grampus Eight, in the running to take the First Stage until late on, appear to have shot themselves in the foot by sacking Slovenian coach Zdenko Verdenik. Grampus, unbeaten in their first 13 First Stage games, only lost the last two after the decision to dismiss Verdenik – apparently because of a conflict between he and the club's new technical director – had been taken.

The new coach is Brazilian Nelsinho, assistant to Yasutaro Matsuki when Verdy Kawasaki won the 1994 title, and who, as manager, led Verdy to second place in 1995. However, Nelsinho had a rocky start this time out. A 5-1 defeat by Antlers in the League Cup showed he has a bit of work to do.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

OCEANIA

Record Cup win for UMW

UNIVERSITY-MOUNT WELLINGTON lifted the Chatham Cup, **NEW ZEALAND'S** premier knockout competition, for a record seventh time when defeating Melville United 3-1 in the Final.

UMW are ostensibly a member of the Northern Regional League these days, but they also act as a feeder club for National League entity East Auckland and fielded eight players with extensive experience in the higher grade against Melville.

The latter dominated the early stages and took a deserved lead after six minutes through Stewart Watene. But the second half was dominated by UMW. Joe Waugh duly grabbed an equaliser, and Heath McCormack then scored twice to settle matters.

UMW have now won the Chatham Cup one more time than North Shore United and Christchurch United.

Manika Namaga's 48th-minute penalty, the only goal of the game, brought Rewa victory over favourites Ba in **FIJI'S** Battle of the Giants tournament Final at Churchill Park, Lautoka. Ba played well below par as the Delta Tigers gained a rare success by a southern side on western soil.

Adelaide City have become the seventh club in six years to drop out of **AUSTRALIA'S** National Soccer League because of financial problems. The withdrawal, just three weeks before the new season got under way, came after the three-times champions lost their major sponsor, a brick manufacturer.

All League clubs are believed to be losing money and other casualties could materialise before the competition undergoes urgently needed restructuring next year. Developments at Northern Spirit, some of whose players have reportedly not been paid since December, will be watched with particular anxiety.

Hosts Tafea captured **VANUATU'S** National Provincial Championship title after beating Luganville 2-1 in the Final. However, the major talking point was the failure of overwhelming favourites Port Vila. Fielding a virtual national selection, the capital's representatives lost 1-0 to both Luganville in the semi-finals and unheralded Sanma in the third-place play off.

AS Magenta completed the Double in **NEW CALEDONIA** by beating JS Baco 1-0 in an uninspiring Cup Final. The match had been delayed by three months because of crowd trouble when the two sides met in the League championship Grand Final clash, and their rustiness was all too obvious. At least the goal that settled the tie was a good one, Andre Sinedo heading home Patrick Wajocka's corner in the 64th minute.

Paul Moon

ASIAN ROUND-UP

● Defending SOUTH KOREAN champions Songnam Ilhwa moved 10 points clear at the top of the K.League at the start of September as the club's heavy spending during the close season continued to pay off. Songnam established their daunting lead with a 2-1 win over second-placed Ulsan Tigers with goals from Brazilian Ireneu and Kim Do-hoon.

● Pahang thrashed Kelatan 5-1 to reach the quarter-finals of the MALAYSIAN Cup and maintain their perfect record in Group A. In Group D, Selangor Public Bank also confirmed their place in the last eight by beating Melaka 2-1.

● The Iraqi Olympic squad won the Seventh Sadaka title in SAUDI ARABIA beating the Moroccan Olympic selection 1-0. Younus Mahmoud scored the winner in the second half. Oman's Khabourah clinched the 18th Gulf Youth title by beating Al-Hala of Bahrain 3-1. Khabourah took 11 points from five matches.

● IRANIAN champions Sepahan won the FA Trophy, beating Pas 3-1 in the Final. Paykan SC have appointed Iran's 1998 World Cup assistant coach Bijan Zolfagharnasab as coach for next season. Croat Vinko Begovic, Foolad's coach for the past four years, has joined Pirouzi and been replaced by compatriot Luka Bonacic.

● Holders Mohammedan SC reached the Final of BANGLADESH'S National Football League with a 1-0 win over arch-rivals Abahani KC. They were set to meet Muktijoddha KC, who reached the championship decider for the first time with a 1-0 win over Moulvibazar Wanderers.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

On target...a Kim Do-hoon goal helped put champions Songnam even further in front in the K.League

Incredible journey...Peter Ndlovu

Ndlovu sends Zimbabwe flying into Final

The two-goal Sheffield United forward clocks up the air miles to set up a COSAFA Castle Cup showdown with Malawi

TWO GOALS FROM Peter Ndlovu, following an incredible journey from England, put Zimbabwe through to their third COSAFA Castle Cup Final in four years.

The 30-year-old Sheffield United forward arrived just shortly before the Sunday afternoon semi-final against Swaziland in his home town of Bulawayo having helped United beat his old club Coventry City in a First Division game the day before.

Ndlovu drove straight to Heathrow airport, caught a plane to Johannesburg, switched to another flight to Bulawayo, and finally arrived at the ground at lunchtime on the Sunday.

Nor did Ndlovu hang around once the game got under way, opening the scoring after two minutes after Swaziland keeper Sipho Dube calamitously dropped a harmless cross right into his path.

Poor defending also allowed Ndlovu to snatch his second goal, eight minutes after half-time, to put Zimbabwe into the Final of the annual southern African championship. Ndlovu is likely to miss the first leg of the Final, against Malawi in Blantyre on September 27, because of club commitments. However, another mad dash could allow him to play in the home leg in Harare a week later.

Malawi reached the Final after deservedly beating eternal rivals Zambia 4-2 on penalties following a 1-1 draw. Russell Mwafulirwa muscled his way past the Zambian defence to give the hosts the lead in Blantyre before a stoppage-time equaliser from defender Sashi Chalwe forced a shoot-out.

Malawi were led to the Final by Englishman Allan Gillett, who returned to the country to take charge for the Zambia game a month after his full-time contract had expired. Gillett is now staying on on a match-by-match basis.

Mark Gleeson

Seeds ASEC sink to bottom

THE TRADITIONAL ORDER of African club football was strongly tested during the first half of the Champions League group stage, with seeds Esperance of Tunisia and Ivory Coast's ASEC Abidjan meeting difficulties.

Both looked pedestrian in their group openers, with Esperance needing some dubious refereeing decisions to sneak a 2-1 home win over Canon Yaounde of Cameroon, while ASEC were held 1-1 at home by Egypt's Ismaili. While Esperance hit back by winning 1-0 away to USM Alger and drawing 0-0 with Angolan challengers AS Aviacao, ASEC slumped to the bottom of Group A.

The Ivorians were shocked by a 1-0 defeat at Tanzania's Simba – expected to be the group's whipping boys – and then lost 3-1 to Enyimba in Nigeria.

Ismaili were the only unbeaten team in Group A after three rounds, following up their draw with ASEC with a 6-1 thrashing of Enyimba – the Nigerians' heaviest defeat in continental competition – and then a 0-0 draw at Simba. The Egyptian side's German coach, Theo Bucker, arrived just weeks before the campaign but appears to have quickly got his charges into shape.

Enyimba's debacle against Ismaili came after they had midfielder Ogbonna Okemiri sent off for a second bookable offence. Goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama, who played in the World Cup against England last year, was substituted after the fourth goal and has since been stripped of the captaincy.

Mark Gleeson

Ousted...Enyeama

ROUND-UP

CENTRAL AFRICA

● AS Tempete Mocaf kept the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Cup by hammering Mbakara 8-0 in the Final.

A new tournament for central African nations, the CEMAC Cup, will be staged in Brazzaville, Congo, in December. The region used to have an annual event, called the UDEAC Cup, but it has not been played for a decade.

NORTH AFRICA

● Al Ahly won the EGYPTIAN Super Cup on penalties against arch-rivals Zamalek after a goalless draw.

Belgian coach Manny Bassado has taken over from Romanian Ivica Todorov as coach of MOROCCAN side Maghreb Fes. Mohamed Fakhir has left champions Hassania Agadir to take charge of Royal Armed Forces, where he replaces former France stalwart Alain Giresse. Kawkab Marrakesh have former Moroccan international Fakhreddine Rajhi as their new coach, while Jeunesse Massira have taken on ex-national team boss Abdellah Blida.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

● Former PSV Eindhoven winger and African Footballer of the Year Kalusha Bwalya is the new coach of ZAMBIA.

Civics won the Charity Cup in NAMIBIA, beating Chief Santos 3-1 on penalties after a goalless draw. Chief Santos striker Gervatius Uri Khob was named as the country's Footballer of the Year.

WEST AFRICA

● Etoile Filante won the BURKINA FASO Cup for the eighth time, beating ASFA Yennaga 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw.

ASEC Abidjan beat Africa Sports on penalties after a 1-1 draw to win the IVORIAN Cup.

The FA Cup in MALI went to Djoliba, 2-1 winners over Tata in extra-time.

MAURITANIA have appointed Frenchman Noel Tossi as their new coach.

Mark Gleeson

TALENT SCOUT

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

Obafemi MARTINS

Serie A starlet keeping his national team waiting

ONE OF THE big attractions of the new Serie A season must be the prospect of seeing Obafemi Martins playing more regularly.

The stocky Internazionale striker is on the verge of superstardom, having risen through the junior ranks at a club where most of the first-team players are bought in from elsewhere and at great cost.

The dramatic rise of the speedy 19-year-old Nigerian, whose pace and strength make him a particularly exciting commodity, has his home country abuzz with excitement. But Martins is keeping its demanding national teams at bay – for the meantime.

He has turned down several call-ups to play for both the Super Eagles and the Under-23 side, who have a busy programme ahead of them in the bid to qualify for the Athens Olympics next year.

"I'm not ready to play for Nigeria now, it's too soon," says Martins. "I'm still learning and want to develop further. I'm doing well for Inter right now but am still miles away from being the finished product. All I want now is to put my head down and settle in the Inter first team. I'll have time for international football later."

Sensible words from the teenager – if we can call him that. His age has not been independently verified, and the frequency with which Nigerians have been found to be cheating over this issue has been getting out of hand in recent years.

But there is no denying his talent, verified in a handful of UEFA Champions League appearances last season and then in a pre-season tournament in Amsterdam this summer. Martins made his Inter debut last December and won over the fans with a goal against city rivals Milan in the Champions League semi-final, second leg at the San Siro. The goal came after he beat Paolo Maldini for pace, but it proved too little, too late for Inter.

He also scored against Bayer Leverkusen and in Serie A against Atalanta, settling in as coach Hector Cuper exposed him gently to the big time.

Martins hails from Lagos and made his way as a teenager to Reggiana in Italy without any time in formal football structures in Nigeria. He moved to Inter with two other Nigerian juniors – Saheed Adeshokan and Ali Isa Ilayaku – soon after.

Martins has an elder brother, Oladipupo Martins, who is on the books of Serbian champions Partizan Belgrade and says he enjoys a close camaraderie with his compatriots in Italian football. "Italian football is the most difficult league there is," says Martins. "I hope I can make it here."

There are many, not just in Italy, who already believe that to be the case.

Mark Gleeson

FACT FILE

Club **Internazionale (Ita)**
Country **Nigeria**
Born **October 28, 1983, in Lagos**
Previous clubs **Ebeybe, Reggiana (Ita)**

Kevin KURANYI

Brazil-born striker aiming to become Germany stalwart

STUTTGART AND GERMANY striker Kevin Kuranyi is a walking United Nations. Born in Brazil to a father of Hungarian-German stock and a Panamanian mother, he spent the first 14 years of his life in Rio de Janeiro before moving to Germany with his family in 1996.

A year later he joined the VfB Stuttgart youth ranks, where he proved to be a pugnacious leader of the line and eventually turned professional with the club in 2000. At that time, however, there was no hint of stardom. First-team opportunities were at a premium and Stuttgart coach Felix Magath has since admitted that he wondered if Kuranyi had what it took to make the grade.

At the start of last season, Kuranyi was still only fourth choice in the Stuttgart strikers' pecking order, behind Ioan Ganea, Sean Dundee and Ioannis Amanatidis. But with Ganea out of form and Dundee suffering a knee ligament injury, Kuranyi seized his chance when drafted in for the September Bundesliga game against Borussia Monchengladbach. He shot home a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw and proceeded to score a flurry of goals in the next few weeks: a fine brace in his team's 4-1 UEFA Cup first round victory against Ventspils of Latvia, a brilliant hat-trick in a 3-0 home win over Arminia Bielefeld and then two excellent headers as 1860 Munich were crushed 4-1.

Powerful, surprisingly skilful on the ball for a big man and superb in the air, Kuranyi was now in the team to stay. The 21-year-old went on to amass 15 goals as the young Stuttgart side surpassed all expectations by achieving an excellent second-place Bundesliga finish.

"It has been a dream period for me," says Kuranyi. "At the start of the season, I couldn't have imagined scoring so many goals in the Bundesliga and being in a team that qualified for the Champions League. But the new season is obviously going to be even harder for both the team and myself. Everybody knows all about us now and so we must all seek to improve."

Kuranyi also has a burgeoning international career to look forward to. After impressing with the German Under-21s last autumn, senior team coach Rudi Voller had no hesitation in awarding him his first full cap in the Euro 2004 qualifier at home to Lithuania in March. Given the chronic lack of firepower at the point of the Germany attack these days, Kuranyi could well prove to be the long-term answer.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

- **Club** VfB Stuttgart
- **Country** Germany
- **Born** March 2, 1982, in Rio de Janeiro
- **Previous club** Serrano FC Petropolis (Bra)
- **International debut** March 2003, v Lithuania
- **International caps** 3 (0 goals)

Zdenek GRYGERA

Czech defender with new life in Amsterdam

VERSATILITY HAS LONG been a watchword at Ajax, and the Amsterdammers have enrolled a supremely adaptable player in Zdenek Grygera. Although the Czech defender, who was prised away from Sparta Prague this summer for £2.6million, is arguably at his best as an adventurous right-back, he can also play at left-back and in central defence.

Grygera, one of the most sought-after young players in Europe, might have succumbed to the advances of Juventus, Borussia Dortmund, Monaco or CSKA Moscow. But he eventually plumped for a four-year contract with Ajax. "I've come to a great club, one with an excellent name in Europe," says the 23-year-old. "They play classical attacking football, and the team is full of exceptional young players. I'm confident I will be able to fit in."

Grygera, little known outside Czech borders before last season, owes his move to some outstanding performances for his national team. There could have been no better publicity than scoring the opening goal in his country's 2-0 friendly win away to France in February, while there was a five-star display as the Czechs held Holland to a 1-1 draw in a Euro 2004 qualifying tie in Rotterdam in March.

Solid defensively, quick to support the attack and always a threat when going forward at set-pieces, Grygera made a massive contribution to securing his team's vital point. It may even have been the night when his Ajax future was sealed. "It's a little strange that I've moved to a country who are our closest rivals in qualification for Euro 2004," says Grygera. "Holland are a strong team, but then we think we are too. I think we can both reach the European Championship finals and do well in Portugal."

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

- **Club** Ajax (Hol)
- **Country** Czech Republic
- **Born** May 14, 1980, in Poilepy u Holesova
- **Previous clubs** TJ Holesov, Zlin, Petra Drnovice, Sparta Prague
- **International debut** August 2001, v South Korea
- **International caps** 18 (1 goal)
- **Honours** Czech League 2001, 2003 (Sparta)

ALEX

Santos strongman set to add weight to Brazil's defence

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF Brazil's squad for the opening World Cup qualifiers was eagerly awaited at Santos. But while the likes of Diego and Renato were included, centre-back Alex was overlooked. For the time being at least, national coach Carlos Alberto Parreira appears to want to stick with experienced players at the back, though Alex is more than staking his claim every week with his club side.

Even at 21, the defender is the heaviest outfield player in Brazilian football, and has more than pulled his weight in the seaside club's remarkable recent run of success. His awesome strength and surprising speed are fundamental. As Santos winger Robinho said after facing Alex in training: "It's not easy to get past The Ox." The burly beast of burden also makes an attacking contribution, providing an aerial threat at set-pieces and often getting on the scoresheet with fearsome long-range free-kicks.

The attacking bias in the Santos midfield means that Alex has frequently been left exposed – a design fault Santos got away with until meeting Boca Juniors in this year's Libertadores Cup Final. Slack passing out of defence, lapses of concentration, the odd cumbersome lunge – his flaws were ruthlessly exposed by canny Boca coach Carlos Bianchi.

But Alex has responded in style. He had an excellent Gold Cup with Brazil's Under-23s, looking rock solid behind a midfield with a more defensive leaning. And he carried his form into the Brazilian championship, where a glance at the Santos goals against column – just 31 in 29 games – helps explain why a second consecutive title is a possibility.

A place in next year's Olympic team seems assured. But maybe even before that the Santos strongman will be holding up Brazil's opponents in World Cup qualifiers.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

- **Club** Santos
- **Country** Brazil
- **Born** June 17, 1982, in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro
- **Previous club** Juventus (Sao Paulo)
- **Honours** Brazilian championship 2002

Gregory COUPET

Lyon keeper recovering from a summer of discontent

WHEN GREGORY COUPET celebrated Lyon's second successive French League title win at the end of last season he had no idea what personal and professional pain the summer would have to offer.

First, Lyon told him they did not want to offer him a long-term extension to his contract and that perhaps he should consider moving on. He had barely left that behind to play for France in the Confederations Cup than he was assailed by the death of old team-mate Marc-Vivien Foe.

Coupet speaks his mind, which has not always made him the most popular of team-mates. But his dedication and loyalty are also renowned – which made the dispute with Lyon and the death of Foe so painful.

In the end the Lyon situation was resolved with an uneasy compromise. Coupet says: "I was 30, which is not old for a goalkeeper, and I wanted a two-year extension to my contract, which I didn't think was much to ask. I wanted to finish my career at Lyon. But Jean-Michel Aulas, the president, turned me down. That was a hammer blow, right to my soul. So I went to the Confederations Cup with my world upside down. It was a difficult time."

Coupet's personal concerns were set aside, of course, by the death of Foe less than an hour before the keeper and his team-mates lined up for their own semi-final against Turkey. "That was terrible," says Coupet. "We agreed we didn't want to talk much about it out of respect to Marc-Vivien's family. We all knew him and for us at Lyon he was a friend and an old team-mate.

"I don't remember much about the match. We all played it in shock – the anthems, the silence, then the game. It was a big emotional experience for us. At the end we were all absolutely drained. Like a bad dream."

If anything, Foe's death helped ease Coupet and Lyon to a compromise over his contract. As he says: "Sometimes you are reminded there are more important things than football. Anyway, I have always been very proud of my contribution to Lyon. We made club history last season in retaining the League title – in a way that people will remember in 30 or 40 years' time."

The triumph put Lyon into the Champions League hat, from which they were drawn with Anderlecht, Celtic and Bayern Munich. Lyon are the only club of the four who have never won a European trophy but they are G-14 members, and Coupet believes they are seriously on the international up. "Lyon can establish themselves at a European level in a way that will register with all French sports enthusiasts," he says. "In the next few years you will see Lyon become one of the very best teams in Europe.

"OK, last season we went out of the Champions League group stage in the first round. If we had won our last game away to Rosenborg in Norway instead of drawing 1-1 then we would have qualified for the second round. But that's a mere detail. All in all, we had a magnificent season on which we will go on building. We have a difficult draw but we are close to the level of Bayern, Celtic and Anderlecht."

Coupet gives Aulas credit, though their paths rarely cross. He says: "Aulas has built something wonderful. He has given us all a winning mentality. He's a real businessman – not that I really know him. He does his job, I do mine."

Perhaps Aulas is wary of Coupet's temper. The keeper may keep his cool out on the pitch but the safety valve comes off back in the dressing-room.

"I just hate hypocrisy," says Coupet, "people who say something to your face and something else behind your back. If something's gone wrong then I say so. Some of the younger players say: 'Oh, he's off on one again.' But I think my 'explosions' last season had a positive result. Sometimes I go over the top but, as I see it, it's all for the good of the cause."

Keir Radnedge

FACT FILE

Club Lyon
Country France
Born December 31, 1972, in Le-Puy-en-Velay
International debut June 2001, v Australia
International caps 5 (0 goals)
Honours French League 2002, 2003

WS WORLD SOCCER October 1992

DIEGO MARADONA'S controversial comeback attempt with Spanish side Sevilla was the subject on everybody's minds 11 years ago. The Argentina star had set his sights on appearing in the 1994 World Cup finals in the USA, then 18 months away.

World Soccer revealed that Maradona had sought the advice of Pele, who said: "I told him: 'You can still play in the World Cup. You have the talent. The physical preparation is down to you. But if you want it enough you can do it.'"

Maradona was still under contract to Napoli, having served a 15-month ban for cocaine use. But his move to Sevilla reunited him with coach Carlos Bilardo, manager of Argentina's 1986 World Cup-winning side.

Doubts remained, however, about whether Maradona had the self-discipline to succeed in Spain. As Keir Radnedge commented: "Maradona is George Best to the power of 1,000. A great talent abused temperamentally and then abused, latterly, by drugs. A sad, sad story."

Elsewhere, Gary Lineker's new Japanese club, Nagoya Grampus Eight, were in the spotlight as they prepared for the debut of the England striker, who had agreed a two-year deal worth £2.3 million.

The club was backed by car company Toyota, who had only agreed to join the newly-planned J.League after 100,000 local people signed a petition calling on it to back a team.

There were also profiles of midfielders Aron Winter of Lazio and Holland, Rui Barros of Monaco and Portugal, and Neil Webb of Manchester United and England. Webb's career was in freefall. After being made a scapegoat for United's failure to win the League and falling out with manager Alex Ferguson, he found himself in United's reserves.

'There were doubts about whether Maradona had the discipline to succeed in Spain'

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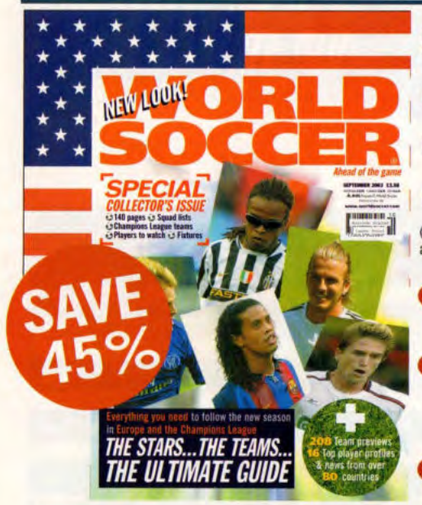

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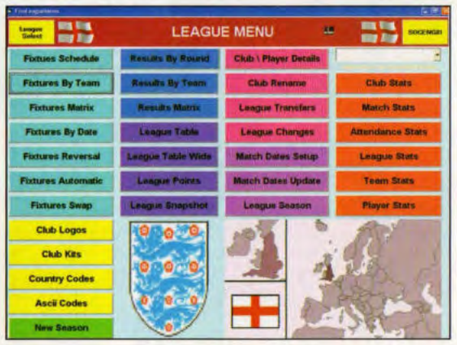

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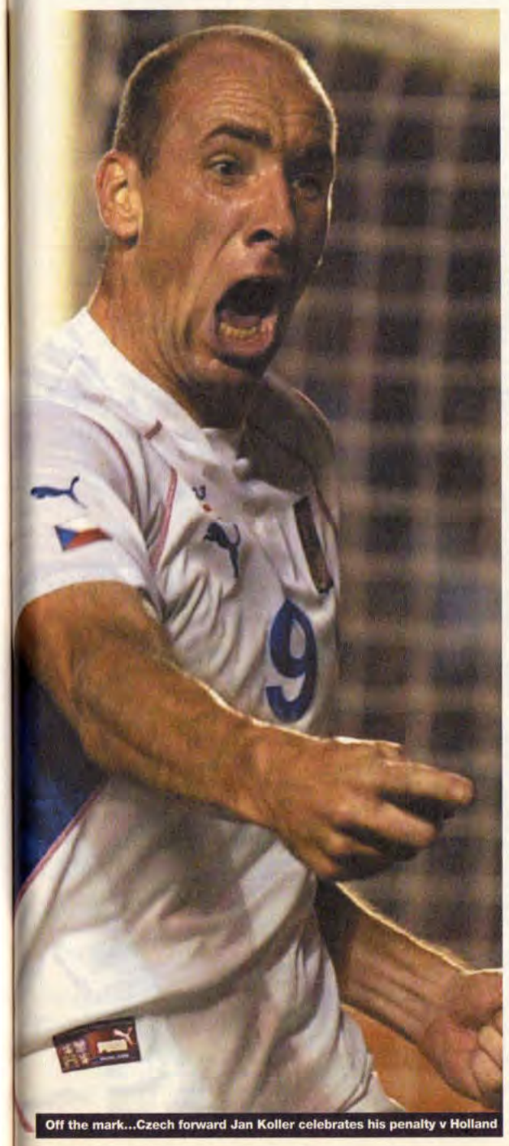

Off the mark...Czech forward Jan Koller celebrates his penalty v Holland

ONLY ONE GROUP matchday remains in the race to Portugal yet only four nations, apart from the hosts, have booked a berth: holders France from Group 1, the Czech Republic (Group 3), Sweden (Group 4) and Bulgaria (Group 8).

The French maintained their 100 per cent record by thrashing Cyprus 5-0 with two goals apiece from David Trezeguet and Sylvain Wiltord and then collecting the remaining one essential point with a 2-0 victory in Slovenia. Trezeguet again and Olivier Dacourt did the business, to the relief of coach Jacques Santini. He said: "That was our toughest match in the group – our defence did their job really well."

Slovenia's consolation was to find they had the runners-up spot and reached the play-offs because Israel had been held 2-2 by Malta.

Denmark could have secured their own place in the finals from Group 2 had they beaten Romania in Copenhagen. Instead they managed only a 2-2 draw, and that thanks to an injury-time Martin Laursen goal.

Remarkably, Bosnia-Herzegovina can still overtake both the top two, Denmark and Romania, if they win their last match, at home to the Danes. Single-goal wins at home to Norway and away to Luxembourg kept the Bosnians in the frame.

Karel Poborsky was the Czech hero in their 3-1 win over Holland in the Group 3 decider. He earned a penalty, which Jan Koller converted to put the hosts ahead, and then scored the second himself. The penalty incident was a double setback for Holland, with Edgar Davids being sent off for the foul which was already his second yellow card offence. Rafael Van der Vaart pulled one back for Holland on the hour but Milan Baros struck in overtime to make qualification certain for the Czechs.

The players hoisted coach Karel Bruckner on their shoulders at the final whistle of a match which extended his unbeaten run to 17 matches since his takeover after the World Cup qualifying failure. The Dutch had no excuse. As skipper Frank De Boer said: "We started poorly and our passing was terrible."

Sweden completed their qualification by defeating Poland 2-0. Mikael Nilsson and Olof Mellberg scored the goals. Latvia, Hungary and Poland can all still hope to reach the play-offs.

Germany continued to make desperately hard work of it in Group 5. Coach Rudi Voller let rip with a furious outburst against media critics after a depressing goalless draw in Iceland. Voller's fury – "I'm not nailed to the bench like Vogts and Ribbeck before me; I don't need all this nonsense" – caused nationwide controversy but was highly popular with his players, who responded by scraping a 2-1 home win over Scotland. The Germans now need only a draw at home to Iceland to secure top spot. Scotland, to reach the play-offs, need to beat Lithuania and hope Iceland do not beat Germany.

Erratic Spain's 2-1 win over Ukraine guarantees them a play-off place, though Greece continue to top Group 6 courtesy of a controversial 1-0 win in Armenia. The game was overshadowed by bribery allegations. UEFA has promised to investigate.

England go to Turkey with everything to play for in Group 7. Sven Goran Eriksson's men ground out a 2-1 comeback win in Macedonia, with Wayne Rooney becoming the youngest England scorer of all time. The Everton 17-year-old was then on target again – and clear man of the match – when England followed up with a 2-0 win over Liechtenstein in Manchester. The latter match marked David Beckham's first return to Old Trafford since his Real Madrid move.

Liechtenstein's caretaker boss Walter Horrmann was not overly impressed with the hosts, saying: "England deserved to win but Turkey are technically perfect and extremely creative; England will find it very hard getting the point they need in Istanbul." England need a draw to qualify directly for Portugal, but are already assured of a play-off place.

Bulgaria, predictably, won Group 8 with a 3-0 win in Andorra. Belgium kept their play-off hopes alive with a 2-1 home win over Croatia, Wesley Sonck scoring both goals. To secure a play-off place, Belgium must now get a better result against Estonia than Croatia get against Bulgaria.

Pippo Inzaghi was Italy's hat-trick hero as they punctured the Wales balloon, winning 4-0 in Milan. He also scored the goal that secured a 1-1 draw in Serbia and kept Italy top of the group. Wales suffered a further disappointment when they could only follow defeats by the Serbs and Italians with a 1-1 home draw against Finland. They are, however, guaranteed a play-off spot.

Russia, 4-1 winners over Switzerland under new coach Georgi Yartsev and courtesy of a Dmitri Bulykin hat-trick, will top Group 10 if they beat Georgia at home and the Swiss fail to beat the Republic of Ireland. The latter have to beat Switzerland to have any chance of winning the group.

Keir Radnedge

EURO 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group 1

Sep 6 - Saint-Denis
France 5 (Trezeguet 7, 82, Wiltord 20, 41, Henry 59)
Cyprus 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Irvine (NI)
France: Barthez - Thuram (Sagnol 65), Desailly, Silvestre, Lizarazu, Wiltord, Makelele, Vieira (Dacourt 71), Pires, Henry (Marlet 78), Trezeguet.
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Okkarides, N Georghiou, Theodotou, Konnafis (Ioakim 46), Engomitis (C Michael 58), N Nicolaou, Kaiafas, Satsias, Okkas, M Constantinou (Yiasoumi 67).

Sep 6 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 3 (Siljak 35, Knavs 37, N Ceh 78)
Israel 1 (Revivo 69)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Cipot, Karic, Snofl, Knavs, Sukalo, N Ceh (Rudonja 89), Zahovic, Kapic (Seslar 84), Acimovic, Siljak (Cimirotic 64).
Israel: Elimelech - Harazi, Ben-Haim, Benado, Keisi (Balili 46), Abuksis (Badir 77), Tal, Berkovic, Benayoun, Revivo, Nimni. *Sent off: Nimni 87min, Ben-Haim 90min.*

Sep 10 - Antalya, Turkey
Israel 2 (Revivo 16, Abuksis 78)
Malta 2 (Michael Mifsud pen 51, Carabott 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Blareau (Blg)
Israel: Elimelech - Harazi, Benado, Gershon, Zandberg (Benayoun 60), Revivo, Abuksis, Berkovic (Afek 43), Tal, Balili, Badir.
Malta: Muscat - Barbara, Chetcuti, Carabott, Said, Camenzuli, Turner, Giglio (Theuma 79), Michael Mifsud, Bogdanovic (Galea 69), Nwoko (A Mifsud 88).

Sep 10 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 0
France 2 (Trezeguet 10, Dacourt 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Vugdalic (Snofl 83), Knavs, Cipot, Karic, Acimovic, Sukalo (Kapic 55), Pavlin, N Ceh, Zahovic (Cimirotic 65), Siljak.
France: Barthez - Thuram, Desailly, Silvestre, Lizarazu, Wiltord (Sagnol 76), Vieira, Makelele, Zidane (Pires 79), Trezeguet (Dacourt 69), Henry. *Sent off: Makelele 67min.*

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	7	7	0	0	26	2	21
Slovenia	7	4	1	2	13	10	13
Israel	7	2	3	2	9	8	9
Cyprus	7	2	1	4	7	16	7
Malta	8	0	1	7	5	24	1

07.09.02 .....Cyprus-France 1-2
07.09.02 .....Slovenia-Malta 3-0
12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia 5-0
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel 0-2
16.10.02 .....Malta-France 0-4
20.11.02 .....Cyprus-Malta 2-1
29.03.03 .....Cyprus-Israel 1-1
29.03.03 .....France-Malta 6-0
02.04.03 .....Israel-France 1-2
02.04.03 .....Slovenia-Cyprus 4-1
30.04.03 .....Israel-Cyprus 2-0
30.04.03 .....Malta-Slovenia 1-3
07.06.03 .....Israel-Slovenia 0-0
07.06.03 .....Malta-Cyprus 1-2
06.09.03 .....France-Cyprus 5-0
06.09.03 .....Slovenia-Israel 3-1
10.09.03 .....Israel-Malta 2-2
10.09.03 .....Slovenia-France 0-2
11.10.03 .....Cyprus-Slovenia
11.10.03 .....France-Israel

Group 2

Sep 6 - Zenica
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Bajramovic 86)
Norway 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
Bosnia: Hasagic - Spahic, Konjic, Hibic, Papac, Salihamidzic (Beslija 66), Bajramovic, Grujic, Barbarez (Biscevic 87), Music (Hrgovic 70), Bolic.
Norway: E Johnsen - Basma, H Berg, R Johnsen, Bergdolmo, Solskjaer (Iversen 85), Andresen, Hangeland, R Strand (Solli 87), Riise, Carew (T A Flo 77).

Sep 6 - Ploiesti
Romania 4 (Mutu 39, Pancu 42, Ganea 44, Bratu 77)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Yefet (Isr)
Romania: Lobont - Stoican, Rat, Iencsi, Chivu (Soava 46), Radoi, Dumitru, D Munteanu, Ganea, Mutu (Bratu 46), Pancu (A Stoica 76).
Luxembourg: Besic - Peters, Federspiel, Hoffmann, Strasser, Remy, Schauls, Reiter, Leweck, Cardoni (Mannon 84), Braun (Huss 84).

Sep 10 - Copenhagen
Denmark 2 (Tomasson pen 35, Laursen 90)
Romania 2 (Mutu 61, Pancu 72)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,049. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Denmark: Sorensen - Wieghorst (Poulsen 64), Henriksen, Laursen, N Jensen, Helveg, Gravesen, Gronkjaer (Rommedahl 80), Tomasson (C Jensen 55), Martin Jorgensen, Sand.
Romania: Lobont - Stoican, Iencsi, Chivu, Rat, Dumitru (Cernat 70), Radoi, Pancu, D Munteanu, Ganea (Bratu 77), Mutu (Soava 90).

Sep 10 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Barbarez 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Kapitanis (Cyp)
Luxembourg: Besic - Peters, Federspiel (Engeldinger 55), Hoffmann, Strasser, Remy, Schauls, Reiter, Leweck, Braun (Mannon 22), Huss.
Bosnia: Hasagic - Spahic, Turkovic, Konjic, Bajramovic, Hibic, Bolic (Beslija 62), Huric (Biscevic 62), Barbarez, Salihamidzic, Hrgovic (Papac 78).

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	7	4	2	1	14	8	14
Romania	8	4	2	2	21	9	14
Bosnia-Herz	7	4	0	3	6	7	12
Norway	7	3	2	2	8	5	11
Luxembourg	7	0	0	7	0	20	0

07.09.02 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Romania 0-3
07.09.02 .....Norway-Denmark 2-2
12.10.02 .....Denmark-Luxembourg 2-0
12.10.02 .....Romania-Norway 0-1
16.10.02 .....Luxembourg-Romania 0-7
16.10.02 .....Norway-Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0
29.03.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Luxembourg ..2-0
29.03.03 .....Romania-Denmark 2-5
02.04.03 .....Denmark-Bosnia-Herzegovina 0-2
02.04.03 .....Luxembourg-Norway 0-2
07.06.03 .....Denmark-Norway 1-0
07.06.03 .....Romania-Bosnia-Herzegovina 2-0
11.06.03 .....Luxembourg-Denmark 0-2
11.06.03 .....Norway-Romania 1-1
06.09.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Norway 1-0
06.09.03 .....Romania-Luxembourg 4-0
10.09.03 .....Denmark-Romania 2-2
10.09.03 .....Luxembourg-Bosnia-Herzegovina ..0-1
11.10.03 .....Bosnia-Herzegovina-Denmark
11.10.03 .....Norway-Luxembourg

Group 3

Sep 6 - Minsk
Belarus 1 (Bulyga 14)
Czech Republic 3 (Nedved 37, Baros 54, Smicer 85)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)
Belarus: Tumilovich - Kulchy, Ostrovski, Lukhvich, Shtanyuk, Rovneiko (Krapkovsky 90), Kutuzov (Hleb 56), Romaschenko, Geraschenko, Gurenko (Volodenkov 82), Bulyga.
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera, Ujfalusi, Bolf, Jankulovski, Poborsky, Tyce (Smicer 35), Rosicky (Vachousek 83), Nedved, Koller, Baros (Hubschman 66).

Sep 6 - Rotterdam
Holland 3 (Van der Vaart 30, Kluivert 60, Cocu 64)
Austria 1 (Pogatetz 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 47,000. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger, F De Boer, Stam, Zenden (Overmars 46), Van der Meyde (Robben 72), Cocu, Van Bommel, Davids (Van Hooijdonk 46), Kluivert, Van der Vaart.
Austria: Mandl - Dospel, Ehmann, Martin Hiden, Pogatetz, Schopp, Aufhauser, Flogel, Ivanschitz (Dollinger 84), Glieder (Kirchler 66), Kollmann (Haas 66).

Sep 10 - Prague
Czech Republic 3 (Koller pen 15, Poborsky 38, Baros 90)
Holland 1 (Van der Vaart 62)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,356. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Czech Republic: Cech - Grygera (Hubschman 25), Ujfalusi, Galasek, Bolf, Smicer (Vachousek 81), Poborsky, Jiranek, Rosicky (Baros 60), Nedved, Koller.
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger, Stam, F De Boer (Ooijer 46), Cocu, Van Bommel, Overmars (Bosvelt 20), Davids, Kluivert, Van Nistelrooy (Van Hooijdonk 71), Van der Vaart. *Sent off: Davids 15min.*

Sep 10 - Tiraspol
Moldova 2 (Dadu 23, Covaliciuc 88)
Belarus 1 (Vasilyuk pen 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Delevic (Ser)
Moldova: Hmaruc - Covalenco (Savinov 74), Olexici, Barisev, Catinsus, Valuta (Boret 69), Covaliciuc, Ivanov, Rogaciov, Cebotari, Dadu (Clescenco 68).
Belarus: Tumilovich - Kulchy, Ostrovski, Lukhvich, Shtanyuk (Omelyanchuk 40), Gurenko, Rovneiko, Geraschenko, Bulyga, Romaschenko (Vasilyuk 66), Kutuzov (Volodenkov 52).

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czech Republic	7	6	1	0	20	3	19
Holland	7	5	1	1	15	6	16
Austria	7	3	0	4	10	11	9
Moldova	7	2	0	5	5	14	6
Belarus	8	1	0	7	4	20	3

07.09.02 .....Austria-Moldova 2-0
07.09.02 .....Holland-Belarus 3-0
12.10.02 .....Belarus-Austria 0-2
12.10.02 .....Moldova-Czech Republic 0-2
16.10.02 .....Austria-Holland 0-3
16.10.02 .....Czech Republic-Belarus 2-0
29.03.03 .....Belarus-Moldova 2-1
29.03.03 .....Holland-Czech Republic 1-1
02.04.03 .....Czech Republic-Austria 4-0
02.04.03 .....Moldova-Holland 1-2
07.06.03 .....Belarus-Holland 0-2
07.06.03 .....Moldova-Austria 1-0
11.06.03 .....Austria-Belarus 5-0
11.06.03 .....Czech Republic-Moldova 5-0
06.09.03 .....Belarus-Czech Republic 1-3
06.09.03 .....Holland-Austria 3-1
10.09.03 .....Czech Republic-Holland 3-1
10.09.03 .....Moldova-Belarus 2-1
11.10.03 .....Austria-Czech Republic
11.10.03 .....Holland-Moldova

Group 4

Sep 6 - Riga
Latvia 0
Poland 2 (Szymkowiak 36, Klos 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Latvia: Kolinko - Isakovs, Zemlinskis, Stepanovs, Blagonadezdins, Bleidelis, Lobanovs, Laizans, Rubins (Semjonovs 77), Prohorenkovs (Rimkus 80), Verpakovskis (Stolcers 82). *Sent off: Laizans 60min.*
Poland: Dudek - Klos, J Bak, Hajto, Ratajczyk, M Lewandowski (Kosowski 68), Sobolewski, Szymkowiak (Zdebel 89), Krzynowek, Zurawski, Kryszalowicz (Saganowski 46).

Sep 6 - Gothenburg
Sweden 5 (M Jonson 33, Jakobsson 49, Ibrahimovic 56, pen 83, Kallstrom pen 68)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 31,098. **Ref:** Messner (Aut)
Sweden: Isaksson - Lucic, Mellberg, Michael Svensson, Edman, Jakobsson (Linderoth 65), M Nilsson, A Svensson (A Johansson 65), Kallstrom, Ibrahimovic, M Jonson (Skoog 73).
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Albani, Matteoni, S Bacciocchi, C Valentini, Vanucci, L Moretti, Michele Marani, Gennari (Nanni 26), A Gasperoni (Zonzini 9; A Selva 85), P Montagna.

Sep 10 - Riga
Latvia 3 (Verpakovskis 38, 51, Bleidelis 42)
Hungary 1 (Lisztes 53)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Latvia: Kolinko - Stepanovs, Astafjevs, Zemlinskis, Lobanovs, Blagonadezdins, Zirnis, Bleidelis, Verpakovskis (Kolesnicenko 89), Rubins, Rimkus (Semjonovs 75).
Hungary: Kiraly - C Feher, Dragoner, Low (Boor 46), Juhar, Lipcsei, Szabics, Dardai, M Feher (Kenesei 46), Lisztes, Gera (Kovacs 86).

Sep 10 - Chorzow
Poland 0
Sweden 2 (M Nilsson 2, Mellberg 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Poland: Dudek - Klos, Sobolewski, Michal Zewlakow, Szymkowiak, J Bak, Hajto, Krzynowek, M Lewandowski (Kosowski 68), Saganowski (Rasiak 64), Zurawski (Kryszalowicz 73). *Sent off: Hajto 63min.*
Sweden: Isaksson - Lucic, Mellberg, Michael Svensson, Edman, Jakobsson, M Nilsson, A Svensson, Ljungberg, Allback (Ibrahimovic 87), M Jonson (Anders Andersson 84).

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	7	5	2	0	19	2	17
Latvia	7	4	1	2	9	6	13
Hungary	7	3	2	2	14	7	11
Poland	7	3	1	3	9	6	10
San Marino	8	0	0	8	0	30	0

07.09.02 .....Latvia-Sweden 0-0
07.09.02 .....San Marino-Poland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia 0-1
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary 1-1
16.10.02 .....Hungary-San Marino 3-0
20.11.02 .....San Marino-Latvia 0-1
29.03.03 .....Poland-Hungary 0-0
02.04.03 .....Hungary-Sweden 1-2
02.04.03 .....Poland-San Marino 5-0
30.04.03 .....Latvia-San Marino 3-0
07.06.03 .....Hungary-Latvia 3-1
07.06.03 .....San Marino-Sweden 0-6
11.06.03 .....San Marino-Hungary 0-5
11.06.03 .....Sweden-Poland 3-0
06.09.03 .....Latvia-Poland 0-2
06.09.03 .....Sweden-San Marino 5-0
10.09.03 .....Latvia-Hungary 3-1
10.09.03 .....Poland-Sweden 0-2
11.10.03 .....Hungary-Poland
11.10.03 .....Sweden-Latvia

Group 5

Aug 20 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 1 (Rogvi Jacobsen 65)
Iceland 2 (E Gudjohnsen 5, Marteinsson 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,416. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Thorsteinsson (Joensen 78), Jon R Jacobsen, Johannesen, Olsen, C Jacobsen, J Johnsson, Jann I Petersen, Rogvi Jacobsen, John Petersen (H Petersen 78), av Flotum (Elttor 56).
Iceland: Arason - Marteinsson, O O Bjarnason, Hreidarsson, T Gudjonsson, J K Gudjonsson, B Gunnarsson (Gretarsson 71), R Kristinsson (H Helguson 77), Vidarsson, E Gudjohnsen, H Sigurdsson (I Sigurdsson 84).

Sep 6 - Reykjavik
Iceland 0
Germany 0
Att: 7,035. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Iceland: Arason - L O Sigurdsson, O O Bjarnason, Hreidarsson, T Gudjonsson, J K Gudjonsson, Marteinsson (Gretarsson 75), R Kristinsson, I Sigurdsson (Vidarsson 83), E Gudjohnsen, H Helguson (H Sigurdsson 78).
Germany: Kahn - Friedrich, Worns, Baumann, Schneider (Deisler 76), Ramelow, Ballack, Kehl, Rahn (Hartmann 60), Klose, Neuville (Kuranyi 46).

Sep 6 - Glasgow
Scotland 3 (McCann 7, Dickov 45, McFadden 74)
Faroe Islands 1 (J Johnsson 35)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,901. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
Scotland: Douglas - McNamara, Naysmith, Webster, Wilkie, Ferguson, Devlin (McFadden 59), Cameron, Dickov (Rae 68), Crawford (Thompson 75), McCann.
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Jann I Petersen, Thorsteinsson, Jon R Jacobsen, Johannesen, H Petersen (Akselsen 66), Benjaminsen, J Johnsson (Danielsen 85), a Borg (Holst 85), Rogvi Jacobsen, John Petersen.

Sep 10 - Toftir
Faroe Islands 1 (Olsen 43)
Lithuania 3 (Morinas 23, 57, Vencevicius 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,175. **Ref:** Trivkovic (Cro)
Faroe Islands: Knudsen - H F Hansen, Olsen, Thorsteinsson (Rogvi Jacobsen 50), Jon R Jacobsen, Jann I Petersen, Benjaminsen, J Johnsson (Danielsen 85), a Borg (Akselsen 78), John Petersen, C Jacobsen.
Lithuania: Kurskis - Dziaukstas, Dedura, Barasa, E Cesnauskis, Zvirgzdauskas, Morinas (Kucys 78), D Cesnauskis, Jankauskas, Poderis (Tamosauskas 46), Vencevicius (Guscinas 90).

Sep 10 - Dortmund
Germany 2 (Bobic 25, Ballack pen 50)
Scotland 1 (McCann 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 67,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Germany: Kahn - Friedrich, Baumann, Worns, Schneider (Kehl 81), Rehmer, Ramelow, Rau, Ballack, Bobic (Klose 76), Kuranyi.
Scotland: Douglas - McNamara, Naysmith, Pressley, Dailly, McCann, Lambert (Ross 46), Ferguson, McFadden (Rae 53), Cameron, Thompson. *Sent off: Ross 66min.*

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	7	4	3	0	10	4	15
Iceland	7	4	1	2	11	6	13
Scotland	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Lithuania	7	3	1	3	7	10	10
Faroe Islands	8	0	1	7	7	18	1

07.09.02 .....Faroe Islands-Scotland 2-2
07.09.02 .....Lithuania-Germany 0-2
12.10.02 .....Iceland-Scotland 0-2
12.10.02 .....Lithuania-Faroe Islands 2-0
16.10.02 .....Germany-Faroe Islands 2-1
16.10.02 .....Iceland-Lithuania 3-0
29.03.03 .....Germany-Lithuania 1-1
29.03.03 .....Scotland-Iceland 2-1
02.04.03 .....Lithuania-Scotland 1-0
07.06.03 .....Iceland-Faroe Islands 2-1
07.06.03 .....Scotland-Germany 1-1
11.06.03 .....Faroe Islands-Germany 0-2
11.06.03 .....Lithuania-Iceland 0-3
20.08.03 .....Faroe Islands-Iceland 1-2
06.09.03 .....Iceland-Germany 0-0
06.09.03 .....Scotland-Faroe Islands 3-1
10.09.03 .....Faroe Islands-Lithuania 1-3
10.09.03 .....Germany-Scotland 2-1
11.10.03 .....Germany-Iceland
11.10.03 .....Scotland-Lithuania

Group 6

Sep 6 - Yerevan
Armenia 0
Greece 1 (Vryzas 34)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,500. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Armenia: Berezovski - Melikyan, Bilibio, Zeciu, Vardanyan, R Hachatryan, A Petrosyan, Voskanyan, Sarkisyan, Artavazd Karamian, Arman Karamian (Movsesian 65).
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis, Fissas, Antzas, Dellas, Basinas, Kapsis, Vryzas, Karagounis (Zagorakis 89), Giannakopoulos (Nikolaidis 87), Haristeas.

Sep 6 - Donetsk
Ukraine 0
Northern Ireland 0
Att: 24,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi, Fedorov, Tymoshchuk, Nesmachnyi, Horshkov, Husin (Gusev 16), Zubov, Rebrov (Melaschenko 72), Voronin, Vorobei.
N Ireland: Taylor - Baird, A Hughes, McCartney, Kennedy, Gillespie, Griffin, Doherty (Mulryne 67), Johnson, M Hughes (Jones 81), Healy (Smith 62).

Sep 10 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Armenia 1 (Arman Karamian 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,616. **Ref:** Stredak (Slk)
N Ireland: Taylor - Baird, McCann, A Hughes, McCartney, Griffin, Gillespie (Jones 29), Johnson, Healy (McVeigh 78), Smith, Doherty (Mulryne 29).
Armenia: Berezovski - Melikyan, Bilibio, Hovsepyan, Zeciu, R Hachatryan, A Petrosyan (Arman Karamian 12), Voskanyan, Sarkisyan, Artavazd Karamian (Partsikyan 87), Movsesian (Ara Hakopyan 75).

Sep 10 - Elche
Spain 2 (Raul 59, 71)
Ukraine 1 (Shevchenko 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Spain: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Juanito, Marchena, Puyol, Etxeberria, Xabi Alonso, Baraja (Xavi 85), Vicente (Valeron 64), Raul, Fernando Torres (Reyes 64).
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Luzhnyi, Fedorov, Tymoshchuk, Nesmachnyi, Dmytrulin (Zubov 65), Popov (Serebrennikov 18), Horshkov, Voronin (Gusev 52), Shevchenko, Vorobei.

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	7	5	0	2	7	4	15
Spain	7	4	2	1	12	4	14
Ukraine	8	2	4	2	11	10	10
Armenia	7	2	1	4	7	12	7
Northern Ireland	7	0	3	4	0	7	3

07.09.02 .....Armenia-Ukraine 2-2
07.09.02 .....Greece-Spain 0-2
12.10.02 .....Spain-Northern Ireland 3-0
12.10.02 .....Ukraine-Greece 2-0
16.10.02 .....Greece-Armenia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Northern Ireland-Ukraine 0-0
29.03.03 .....Armenia-Northern Ireland 1-0
29.03.03 .....Ukraine-Spain 2-2
02.04.03 .....Northern Ireland-Greece 0-2
02.04.03 .....Spain-Armenia 3-0
07.06.03 .....Spain-Greece 0-1
07.06.03 .....Ukraine-Armenia 4-3
11.06.03 .....Greece-Ukraine 1-0
11.06.03 .....Northern Ireland-Spain 0-0
06.09.03 .....Armenia-Greece 0-1
06.09.03 .....Ukraine-Northern Ireland 0-0
10.09.03 .....Northern Ireland-Armenia 0-1
10.09.03 .....Spain-Ukraine 2-1
11.10.03 .....Armenia-Spain
11.10.03 .....Greece-Northern Ireland

Group 7

Sep 6 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Turkey 3 (Tumer 14, Okan Buruk 41, Hakan Sukur 50)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,548. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Michael Stocklasa (Maierhofer 80), Hasler, Ritter, Martin Stocklasa, T Beck (R Beck 59), Gerster, D'Elia, M Frick, F Burgmeier (R Buchel 59).
Turkey: Rustu - Umit Davala, Bulent (Deniz 64), Alpay, Ibrahim Uzulmez, Tumer (Hasan Sas 64), Tugay, Okan Buruk (Gokdeniz 75), Ergun, Hakan Sukur, Tuncay.

Sep 6 - Skopje
Macedonia 1 (Hristov 28)
England 2 (Rooney 53, Beckham pen 63)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,500. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Macedonia: Milosevski - Stojanovski, I Mitreski, Stavrevski, Grozdanovski (Braga 56), Trajanov, Pandev (Gjuzelov 48), Sumulikoski, Sakiri, Naumoski, Hristov (Dimitrovski 88).
England: James - G Neville, Terry, Campbell, Ashley Cole, Butt, Beckham, Lampard (Heskey 46), Hargreaves, Rooney (P Neville 74), Owen (Dyer 86).

Sep 10 - Manchester
England 2 (Owen 46, Rooney 52)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 64,931. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
England: James - G Neville, Terry, Upson, Bridge, Beckham (P Neville 58), Gerrard (Hargreaves 58), Lampard, Rooney (J Cole 69), Beattie, Owen.
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser, Michael Stocklasa (Maierhofer 46), D Hasler, Ritter, Martin Stocklasa, F Burgmeier, Gerster, R Beck (T Beck 57), D'Elia (R Buchel 73), M Frick.

Sep 10 - Zilina
Slovakia 1 (S Nemeth 25)
Macedonia 1 (Dimitrovski 62)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,286. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Slovakia: Konig - Petras, V Labant, Klimpl, Zabavnik, B Labant, Durica (Kisel 71), Oravec, Janocko (Sninsky 89), Mintal (Urban 71), S Nemeth.
Macedonia: Milosevski - Stavrevski, Sedloski, I Mitreski, Stojanovski, Jancevski, Pandev (Kapinkovski 73), Trajanov, Grozdanovski (Georgievski 90), Sakiri, Naumoski (Dimitrovski 33).

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	7	6	1	0	14	5	19
Turkey	7	6	0	1	17	5	18
Slovakia	7	2	1	4	9	9	7
Macedonia	8	1	3	4	11	14	6
Liechtenstein	7	0	1	6	2	20	1

07.09.02 .....Turkey-Slovakia 3-0
08.09.02 .....Liechtenstein-Macedonia 1-1
12.10.02 .....Macedonia-Turkey 1-2
12.10.02 .....Slovakia-England 1-2
16.10.02 .....England-Macedonia 2-2
16.10.02 .....Turkey-Liechtenstein 5-0
29.03.03 .....Liechtenstein-England 0-2
29.03.03 .....Macedonia-Slovakia 0-2
02.04.03 .....England-Turkey 2-0
02.04.03 .....Slovakia-Liechtenstein 4-0
07.06.03 .....Macedonia-Liechtenstein 3-1
07.06.03 .....Slovakia-Turkey 0-1
11.06.03 .....England-Slovakia 2-1
11.06.03 .....Turkey-Macedonia 3-2
06.09.03 .....Liechtenstein-Turkey 0-3
06.09.03 .....Macedonia-England 1-2
10.09.03 .....England-Liechtenstein 2-0
10.09.03 .....Slovakia-Macedonia 1-1
11.10.03 .....Liechtenstein-Slovakia
11.10.03 .....Turkey-England

Group 8

Sep 6 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Croatia 3 (N Kovac 4, Simunic 16, Rosso 71)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 800. **Ref:** Liba (Cze)
Andorra: Koldo - Ramirez, Txema, Jonas (Garcia 68), A Lima, Fernandez, Ayala, J Sanchez, Sonejee, E Gonzalez (Silva 49), Ruiz Gonzalez.
Croatia: Pletikosa - D Simic, Simunic, Tomas, R Kovac, J Leko (Tudor 46), Rapajic, Rosso, Mornar, N Kovac (Vranjes 32), Olic (Prso 57).

Sep 6 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (M Petrov 16, Berbatov 67)
Estonia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,128. **Ref:** Wack (Ger)
Bulgaria: Ivankov - Borimirov, Kirilov, Stoyanov (Zhelev 88), I Petkov, Stilian Petrov, Hristov, Dimitrov (Peev 71), Jankovic (Krastev 63), M Petrov, Berbatov.
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Jaager, U Rooba, Leetma, M Rooba (Reinumae 60), Kristal, Viikmae, Oper, Lindpere (Klavan 74). *Sent off: Oper 69min.*

Sep 10 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Bulgaria 3 (Berbatov 10, 23, Hristov 58)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
Andorra: Koldo - Ramirez, Txema, Jonas (J Sanchez 60), A Lima, Sonejee, Ayala (Escura 80), Jimenez, Fernandez, Pujol, Ruiz Gonzalez (Lucendo 90).
Bulgaria: Ivankov - Borimirov, Kirilov, Pazin, I Petkov, Stilian Petrov, Peev (Manchev 63), Hristov, Jankovic (Dimitrov 59), M Petrov, Berbatov.

Sep 10 - Brussels
Belgium 2 (Sonck 34, 42)
Croatia 1 (D Simic 35)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre, Simons, Van Buyten, Van Damme, Baseggio, Goor, Clement, Walasiak, Buffel (Martens 88), Sonck (Soetaers 90).
Croatia: Pletikosa - D Simic, Simunic, Tomas, R Kovac, Zivkovic, Rapajic (Maric 78), Rosso (Srna 65), Mornar, N Kovac, Olic (Prso 46). *Sent off: Simunic 71min.*

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	7	5	2	0	13	3	17
Croatia	7	4	1	2	11	4	13
Belgium	7	4	1	2	9	9	13
Estonia	7	2	2	3	4	4	8
Andorra	8	0	0	8	1	18	0

07.09.02 .....Belgium-Bulgaria 0-2
07.09.02 .....Croatia-Estonia 0-0
12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium 0-1
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia 2-0
16.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Andorra 2-1
16.10.02 .....Estonia-Belgium 0-1
29.03.03 .....Croatia-Belgium 4-0
02.04.03 .....Croatia-Andorra 2-0
02.04.03 .....Estonia-Bulgaria 0-0
30.04.03 .....Andorra-Estonia 0-2
07.06.03 .....Bulgaria-Belgium 2-2
07.06.03 .....Estonia-Andorra 2-0
11.06.03 .....Belgium-Andorra 3-0
11.06.03 .....Estonia-Croatia 0-1
06.09.03 .....Andorra-Croatia 0-3
06.09.03 .....Bulgaria-Estonia 2-0
10.09.03 .....Andorra-Bulgaria 0-3
10.09.03 .....Belgium-Croatia 2-1
11.10.03 .....Belgium-Estonia
11.10.03 .....Croatia-Bulgaria

Group 9

Aug 20 - Belgrade
Serbia & Montenegro 1 (Mladenovic 73)
Wales 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Serbia & Montenegro: Jevric - Gavrancic, Krstajic, Stefanovic, Cirkovic, Mladenovic, Dragutinovic, D Stankovic (P Djordjevic 81), Vukic (Ilic 68), D Kovacevic, Kezman (Milosevic 71).
Wales: P Jones - Delaney, Page, Gabbidon, Speed, Bellamy, Davies, Pembridge, Savage, Giggs, Blake (Earnshaw 78).

Sep 6 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Ismailov 89)
Finland 2 (Tainio 52, Nurmela 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hrinak (Slk)
Azerbaijan: Kramarenko - Agaev (Musaev 11), Akhmedov, E Guliev, K Guliev, M Gurbanov, Yadullayev, Sadikov, Ismailov, Aliev, Vasilyev. *Sent off: Akhmedov 42min.*
Finland: A Niemi - Saarinen, Hyypia, Pasanen, Vayrynen, Nurmela, Tainio, Kolkka, Reini, Forssell, Johansson.

Sep 6 - Milan
Italy 4 (F Inzaghi 59, 63, 70, Del Piero pen 76)
Wales 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Italy: Buffon - Panucci (Oddo 58), Nesta, Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Camoranesi, Perrotta (Fiore 86), Zanetti, Del Piero, F Inzaghi (Gattuso 74), Vieri.
Wales: P Jones - Davies, Page, Delaney, Speed, Koumas (Earnshaw 71), Savage, Pembridge, Bellamy, Giggs, Hartson (Blake 82).

Sep 10 - Belgrade
**Serbia & Mont

Group 10

Sep 6 - Tbilisi
Georgia 3 (S Arveladze 9, 44, Ashvetia 18)
Albania 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Vollquartz (Den)
Georgia: Lomaia - Khizanishvili, Kemoklidze, Burduli (Rekhviashvili 70), Kvirkvelia, Kobiashvili, Nemsadze, Iashvili, Ashvetia, Jamarauli (Asatiani 58), S Arveladze (Demetradze 60).
Albania: Strakosha - Cipi, Dede (Jupi 10), Cana, Hasi, Murati, Bushi (Tare 61), Aliaj, Skela, Bellai (K Duro 46), Dragusha.

Sep 6 - Dublin
Rep Ireland 1 (Duff 35)
Russia 1 (Ignashevich 42)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Rep Ireland: Given - Carr, Cunningham, Breen, O'Shea (Harte 26), Carsley (Reid 46), Holland, Healy, Kilbane, Duff, Morrison (Doherty 73).
Russia: Ovchinnikov - Evseev, Ignashevich, Onopko, Sennikov, Gusev, Smertin, Mostovoi, Yesipov (Kerzhakov 33), Alenichev (Aldonin 39), Bulykin.

Sep 10 - Tirana
Albania 3 (Hasi 52, Tare 54, Bushi 80)
Georgia 1 (S Arveladze 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,500. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)
Albania: Strakosha - Beqiri, Cipi, Cana (Mukaj 85), Hasi, Murati (Haxhi 18), Shkembi, Rraklli (Bushi 58), Aliaj, Tare, Duro.
Georgia: Lomaia - Khizanishvili, Kemoklidze (Rekhviashvili 40), Didava (Kinkladze 54), Kvirkvelia, Kobiashvili, Nemsadze, Ashvetia, Iashvili (Demetradze 54), Jamarauli, S Arveladze.

Sep 10 - Moscow
Russia 4 (Bulykin 20, 33, 59, Mostovoi 72)
Switzerland 1 (Karyaka og 12)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 29,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Russia: Ovchinnikov - Radimov, Solomatin (Sennikov 46), Smertin, Karyaka, Ignashevich, Onopko, Gusev (Izmailov 58), Bulykin, Mostovoi, Kerzhakov (Sychev 77).
Switzerland: Zuberbuhler - Meyer, Berner (Wicky 71), Henchoz, M Yakin, Vogel, Cabanas, P Muller (Huggel 64), Frei (Rama 79), Celestini, Chapuisat.
Sent off: Cabanas 89min.

GROUP 10

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	7	3	3	1	13	11	12
Russia	7	3	2	2	16	11	11
Rep Ireland	7	2	2	2	10	9	11
Albania	8	2	2	4	11	15	8
Georgia	7	2	1	4	7	11	7

07.09.02 .....Russia-Rep Ireland.....4-2
08.09.02 .....Switzerland-Georgia 4-1
12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland.....1-1
16.10.02 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland 1-2
16.10.02 .....Russia-Albania.....4-1
29.03.03 .....Albania-Russia.....3-1
29.03.03 .....Georgia-Rep Ireland 1-2
02.04.03 .....Albania-Rep Ireland 0-0
02.04.03 .....Georgia-Switzerland 0-0
30.04.03 .....Georgia-Russia 1-0
07.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Albania 2-1
07.06.03 .....Switzerland-Russia.....2-2
11.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Georgia.....2-0
11.06.03 .....Switzerland-Albania.....3-2
06.09.03 .....Georgia-Albania 3-0
06.09.03 .....Rep Ireland-Russia.....1-1
10.09.03 .....Albania-Georgia 3-1
10.09.03 .....Russia-Switzerland.....4-1
11.10.03 .....Russia-Georgia
11.10.03 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland

● When teams finish level on points, their head-to-head record is the first criterion for determining final placings.

● The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.

● Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15, 2003; Nov 19, 2003.

● Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.

INTERNATIONALS

Wednesday, August 13

Aug 13 - Tehran - LG Middle East/African Peace Cup semi
Uruguay 4 (Bueno 32, 46, Peralta 59, Estoyanoff 66)
Cameroon Selection 0
HT: 1-0
Uruguay: Munua (Barbat 76) - Romero (Curbelo 52), Lago, Gonzalez (Aguiar 71), B Silva, Diogo, Sosa (Broli 63), Liguera, Estoyanoff, Peralta, Bueno (Vigneri 67).

Aug 13 - Tehran - LG Middle East/African Peace Cup semi
Iran 0
Iraq 1 (Sawadi 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Kameel (Kuw)
Iran: Mirzapour - Golmohammadi, Nosrati, Rezaei, Nekoonam, Badavi (Shafeae 66), Kaebi (Amirabadi 73), Akbari (Nouri 63), Majidi (Borhani 78), Daei, Kazemian (Mobali 63).
Iraq: Nassir - Khadim, Asad, Jabbar, Zaer, Naji (Fayyadh 70), Abduljabbar (Tahir 60), Sawadi (Salim 85), Mohammed Ali, Abu Alheil (Waheeb 70), Farhan.

Friday, August 15

Aug 15 - Tehran - LG Middle East/African Peace Cup 3-pl
Iran 4 (Majidi 11, Daei 13, Kaebi 32, Kazemian 84)
Cameroon Selection 1 (Ndembe 89)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 7,000
Iran: Mirzapour - Kameli-Mofrad (Nosrati 82), Golmohammadi, Rezaei, Kaebi, Nekoonam, Amirabadi (Badavi 74), Mobali (Borhani 85), Nouri (Kazemian 33), Majidi (Akbari 72), Daei.
Cameroon: E Felix - Silvere, Marcellin, Landry, N Felix, Gilles, Gaspard, Sanda (Ndembe 69), Fish, Emile (Ngome 34), Raymond.

Aug 15 - Tehran - LG Middle East/African Peace Cup Final
Iraq 2 (Fayyadh 58, Zaer pen 85)
Uruguay 5 (Liguera 31, 39, 81, Bueno pen 66, 70)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Rahimi Moghadam (Irn)
Iran: Nassir - Khadim, Asad, Jabbar, Obaid, Naji (Fayyadh 46), Abduljabbar (Wahaib 54), Sawadi (Zaer 72), Mohammed Ali (Tahir 46), Abu Alheil (Waheeb 55), Farhan.
Uruguay: Munua (Barbat 75) - Romero (Curbelo 61), Gonzalez, Lago, B Silva (Aguiar 69), Diogo, Sosa (Broli 73), Liguera, Estoyanoff, Bueno, Peralta (Vigneri 32).

**Aug 15 - Damascus - friendly*
Lebanon 0
Syria 0
Lebanon: El-Samad - Kanaan, Mouhamad, Farah, El-Shoum, Atoui, Haidar, Halawi, Wasef, Itani, Kassas.
Syria: Beiruti - Jaban, Azizi, Maatuk, Turkmani, Akel, Shebou (Sayed), Abdeen, Sleiman (Kilouni), Mendo, Radawi.
**Game abandoned at half-time after the Lebanese players discovered their possessions had been stolen from the changing rooms*

Saturday, August 16

Aug 16 - Blantyre - COSAFA CC semi-final
Malawi 1 (Mwafulirwa 35)
Zambia 1 (Chalwe 89)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mnkantjo (Zim)
Malawi 4-2 on pens
Malawi: Nyasulu - Msowoya, Mabedi, Mwalweni (Kamanga 89), Gatros, Kamwendo (Chavula 75), Maduka, Kondowe, Mgangira, Mwafulirwa, Munthali (Mkhandawire 10).
Zambia: Mbulo - Kabwe, Musonda, Mangamu, Sichone, Chalwe, Mwandila (Mwewa 78), Katongo, Fichite (Mbesuma 59), Nsofwa, Milanzi (Mwendabai 65).

Tuesday, August 19

Aug 19 - Luxembourg - friendly
Luxembourg 1 (Strasser pen 53)
Malta 1 (Giglio 55)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lehner (Aut)
Luxembourg: Besic - Peters, Federspiel, Hoffmann, Strasser, Remy (Posing 78), Schauls, Leweck (Mannon 90), Braun (Huss 75), Cardoni, Christophe.
Malta: Muscat - Camenzuli, Chetcuti, Carabott, Said, Dimech (Mamo 69), Turner (Theuma 88), Giglio (Agius 62), Michael Mifsud (Bogdanovic 84), Nwoko, Mallia.

Aug 19 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 2 (O'Shea 74, Morrison 81)
Australia 1 (Viduka 49)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 37,200. **Ref:** Vidlak (Cze)
Rep Ireland: Colgan - Carr (Harte 57), Cunningham (Dunne 84), Breen (O'Brien 46), O'Shea, Finnan (Kilbane 68), Holland (Healy 19), Kinsella, Duff (A Quinn 79), Robbie Keane (Connolly 44), Doherty (Morrison 57).
Australia: Schwarzer - Neill, Foxe, Popovic, Lazaridis, Emerton, Okon (Grella 68), Bresciano, Tiatto (T Vidmar 70), Chipperfield, Viduka (Aloisi 78).

Wednesday, August 20

Aug 20 - friendly
Angola 0
DR Congo 2

Aug 20 - Florence, Italy - friendly
Argentina 3 (Veron 45, Samuel 86, D'Alessandro 89)
Uruguay 2 (Forlan 2, Liguera 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** De Santis (Ita)
Argentina: Cavallero - Zanetti, Ayala, Samuel, Placente, Almeyda, Veron (D'Alessandro 63), Aimar, D Milito (Kily Gonzalez 46), Crespo (L Gonzalez 83), Claudio Lopez (Saviola 63).
Uruguay: Munua - Lembo, Guigou, Abeijon (Sosa 37), Lopez, Regueiro, Giacomazzi (N Olivera 56), Recoba, Chevanton (Liguera 49), Abreu, Forlan (Bueno 69).

Aug 20 - Vienna - friendly
Austria 2 (Glieder pen 34, Wallner 70)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Austria: Mandl (Payer 46) - Dospel, Ehmann, Martin Hiden, Pogatetz (Katzer 79), Schopp (Weissenberger 67), Aufhauser, Flogel, Ivanschitz, Glieder (Wallner 64), Kirchler (Haas 64).
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - J Drummond, Marin, Chinchilla, C Castro (Wallace 68), D Fonseca (G Drummond 60), M Solis, Centeno (Bennett 85), L Gonzalez, Bryce, R Fonseca.

Aug 20 - Minsk - friendly
Belarus 2 (Romaschenko pen 10, Shtanyuk 41)
Iran 1 (Nouri 84)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000
Belarus: Tumilovich - Kulchy, Ostrovski (Shuneiko 32; Krapkovsky 66), Omelyanchuk, Shtanyuk, Gurenko (Markovsky 83), Kovba, Cheliadinsky (Rovneiko 46), Romaschenko (Komilenko 69), Vasilyuk (Volodenkov 46), Kutuzov (Kovalchuk 77).
Iran: Mirzapour - Rezaei, Golmohammadi, Kameli-Mofrad (Bengar 82), Nosrati (Badavi 88), Nekoonam, Madanchi, Kazemian, Daei, Kaebi, Akbari (Nouri 58).

Aug 20 - Brussels - friendly
Belgium 1 (Sonck 39)
Holland 1 (Makaay 55)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre (De Cock 65), Simons, Van Buyten (Valgaeren 62), Van Damme (P Van der Heyden 85), M Mpenza (Martens 44), Clement, Baseggio (Deschacht 82), Goor, Buffel (Walasiak 90), Sonck (Soetaers 82). *Sent off: De Cock 90min.*
Holland: Van der Sar - Reiziger, Stam (Ooijer 46), F De Boer, Van Bronckhorst (Zenden 46), Seedorf (Van Bommel 46), Davids (Overmars 75), Cocu, Van der Vaart, Kluivert, Van Nistelrooy (Makaay 46). *Sent off: Cocu 85min.*

Aug 20 - Sofia - friendly
Bulgaria 3 (Dimitrov pen 25, 45, Berbatov 33)
Lithuania 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Bolognino (Ita)
Bulgaria: Ivankov (Kolev 46) - Stankov (Krstev 46), Kirilov (Zhelev 60), Stoyanov (Pazin 46), I Petkov, Borimirov (Yanchev 60), Hristov (Jankovic 46), Stilian Petrov, Dimitrov (Sakaliev 60), M Petrov (Manchev 46), Berbatov.
Lithuania: Padimanskas - Alunderis, Dedura, Gleveckas (Regelskis 46), Radzius, Vencevicius (Petrenka 68), Morinas (E Cesnauskis 65), D Cesnauskis, Kucys (Tamosauskas 57), Mikulenas (Guscinas 68), Poskus.

Aug 20 - Tianjin - friendly
China 0
Chile 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Huang (Chn)
China: Li Yunfei - Wei Xin, Li Weifeng, Zhou Ting, Liu Jingdong (Zhou Haibin 46), Xiao Zhanbo, Lu Gang (Xu Yunlong 74), Yang Pu (Du Ping 46), Xiao Junzhe, Li Jinyu (Li Ming 46), Li Yi (Zhang Shuo 77).
Chile: N Tapia - Alvarez, Fuentes, Henriquez, R Perez, Mark Gonzalez, Sanhueza (B Gonzalez 60), Marcos Gonzalez, Millar (Jerez 80), Neira (D Perez 80), Norambuena (Villanueva 60).

Aug 20 - New York - friendly
Colombia 0
Slovakia 0
Att: 16,000. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
Colombia: Mondragon (Henao 46) - I Lopez, Mera, Perea, Bedoya (Cortes 46), Montoya, Viafara (Velasquez 46), Lopez Caballero, Ferreira (Dominguez 46), Arzuaga (R Castillo 46), Preciado.
Slovakia: Rzeszoto - Hanek, B Labant, V Labant, Klimpl (Sninsky 46), Kisel (Barcik 77), Zabavnik, Urban, Durica, Vittek (Kurty 67), Oravec (Babnic 46).

Aug 20 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark 1 (Gronkjaer 42)
Finland 1 (Riihilahti 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,882. **Ref:** McCurry (Sco)
Denmark: Sorensen - Wieghorst (Larsen 46), Henriksen (Sennels 64), Laursen (Bogelund 46), N Jensen, Helveg, Gravesen (Poulsen 40), Gronkjaer (Rommedahl 46), C Jensen, Martin Jorgensen, Sand (Tomasson 46).
Finland: Jaaskelainen - Saarinen, Kuivasto, Tihinen, Reini (Heikkinen 46), Kopteff (Kolkka 46), Valakari (Riihilahti 46), Vayrynen (Koppinen 76), Nurmela (Kangaskorpi 83), Forssell, Johansson (Kuqi 46).

Aug 20 - Ambato - friendly
Ecuador 2 (Baldeon 6, A Aguinaga 50)
Guatemala 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Diaz (Ecu)
Ecuador: Cevallos - Reasco, G Espinoza, I Hurtado, Corozo (George 46), Morales (M Ayovi 46), Mendez, Saritama (Obregon 46), A Aguinaga (Ambrossi 62), Baldeon (Ordonez 46), Salas (Fernandez 46).
Guatemala: Motta - Monterroso, Martinez, Valencia, Aguirre, Melgar (Hernandez 78), Thompson, E Gonzalez (Sandoval 75), Romero (Zacarias 75), Plata (Ortiz 46), Acevedo (Rodriguez 78).

Aug 20 - Ipswich - friendly
England 3 (Beckham pen 9, Owen 51, Lampard 80)
Croatia 1 (Mornar 77)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,700. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
England: James (Robinson 46) - P Neville (Mills 81), Ferdinand (Upson 60), Terry, Ashley Cole (Bridge 60), Beckham (Sinclair 60), Butt (Lampard 27), Gerrard (Murphy 81), Scholes (J Cole 60), Owen (Dyer 60), Heskey (Beattie 76).
Croatia: Pletikosa (Butina 70) - D Simic (Babic 46), Tomas, R Kovac, Simunic (Seric 72), Zivkovic (Agic 71), J Leko (Rosso 60), N Kovac, Rapajic (Srna 46), M Maric (Mornar 46), Olic.

Aug 20 - Tallinn - friendly
Estonia 1 (Lemsalu 90)
Poland 2 (Sobolewski 52, Wichniarek 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Piiroja, Saviauk, Viikmae, Reinumae, Kristal (Leetma 80), Lindpere (Lemsalu 85), Terehhov (Smirnov 67), Zelinski (Zahhovaiko 80).

Poland: Dudek - Hajto, J Bak (Zielinski 67), Klos (Baszczynski 46), Michal Zewlakow, Dabrowski (Szymkowiak 77), Sobolewski (M Lewandowski 83), Zdebel, Krzynowek (Kosowski 46), Wichniarek, Kryszalowicz (Zurawski 46).

Aug 20 - Stuttgart - friendly
Germany 0
Italy 1 (Vieri 17)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,128. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Germany: Kahn - Hinkel, Worns (Rehmer 46), Baumann, Rau, Schneider, Ramelow (Kehl 46), Jeremies, Freier, Neuville (Lauth 71), Bobic (Klose 60).
Italy: Buffon - Panucci, Legrottaglie (Ferrari 79), Cannavaro, Zambrotta, Perrotta, Tacchinardi, Camoranesi (Fiore 64), Totti (Corradi 75), Del Piero (Delvecchio 57), Vieri (Ambrosini 69).

Aug 20 - Tokyo - friendly
Japan 3 (Takahara 1, 39, Endo 72)
Nigeria 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 54,860. **Ref:** Kim Tae-young (SKo)
Japan: Sogahata - Yamada, Miyamoto, Alex, Tsuboi, H Nakata, Nakamura, Inamoto, Endo, Yanagisawa, Takahara (Okubo 68).
Nigeria: Etafia - Sodje, Izuagha, Enakahire, Ovie (Adams 65), H Babangida, Olofinjana, Akwuegbu, Ekong, Ekwueme (Ayorinde 46), Kalu (Opabunmi 78).

Aug 20 - Riga - friendly
Latvia 0
Uzbekistan 3 (Akopyants 41, Soliev 79, Geinrih 89)
HT: 0-1
Latvia: Kolinko - Stepanovs, Pucinsks (Astafjevs 46), Zemlinskis, Laizans, Blagonadezdins (Miholaps 76), Zirnis, Bleidelis (Stolcers 59), Verpakovskis (Kolesnicenko 81), Rubins, Dobrecovs (Prohorenkovs 46). *Sent off: Zemlinskis 88min.*
Uzbekistan: Poljakov - Ashurmatov, Fedorov, Koshelev, Akopyants (Soliev 70), Djeparov, Shishelov (Geinrih 46), Khvostunov, Kopadze, Shirshov, Alikulov. *Sent off: Ashurmatov (Uzbekistan) 88min.*

Aug 20 - Vaduz - friendly
Liechtenstein 2 (M Frick 16, F Burgmeier 23)
San Marino 2 (B Gasperoni 39, Ciacci 45)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 850. **Ref:** Wildhaber (Swi)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Telser (Gigon 67), D Hasler, Ritter, Maierhofer, Martin Stocklasa, M Frick, Gerster, F Burgmeier (R Beck 58), R Buchel (D'Elia 58), T Beck (M Nigg 84).
San Marino: F Gasperoni - Albani, S Bacciocchi, Crescentini, C Valentini, B Gasperoni, M Moretti (Nanni 79), Vannucci (L Moretti 63), Michele Marani, Ciacci (Bologna 76), P Montagna (Toccacelli 88). *Sent off: Michele Marani 78min.*

Aug 20 - Prilep - friendly
Macedonia 3 (Naumoski 9, Pandev 36, Dimitrovski 77)
Albania 1 (Skela 74)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Mihajlevic (Ser)
Macedonia: Milosevski - I Mitreski, Sedloski (Cumbev 62), Stavrevski, A Mitreski (Gjuzelov 62), Sumulikoski, Braga (Grozdanovski 82), Naumoski (Trajanov 62), Pandev (Jancevski 73), Sakiri, Hristov (Dimitrovski 70).
Albania: Strakosha (Becaj 46) - Dede (A Beqiri 46), Cipi, Aliaj (Dabulla 85), Hasi, Bellai, Cana (Shkembi 85), Haxhi (Mukaj 70), Skela, Tare (Myrtaj 80), Bushi (A Duro 46). *Sent off: Cipi 20min.*

Aug 20 - East Rutherford, USA - friendly
Mexico 1 (Trujillo 54)
Peru 3 (Pizarro 1, C Zegarra 31, Solano 33)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 30,143. **Ref:** Hall (USA)
Mexico: O Perez - Carmona (Rubirosa 79), Osorio, Briseno, Valdez, Salazar (Mendez 83), Pardo (C Morales 46), Juan P Rodriguez, R Garcia (Trujillo 46), Borgetti, Bautista (Osorno 57). *Sent off: Briseno 69min, Borgetti 69min.*
Peru: Delgado - Jorge Soto, Rebosio, Galliquio, Hidalgo, Jayo, C Zegarra, Solano, Palacios (Jose Soto 79), Mendoza (Farfan 80), Pizarro. *Sent off: Pizarro 69min, Galliquio 69min.*

Aug 20 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 0
Scotland 0
Att: 12,858. **Ref:** Vuorela (Fin)
Norway: E Johnsen - Basma (Aas 70), H Berg (R Johnsen 46), Lundekvam, Bergdolmo (Iversen 68), Solskjaer, Andresen, Hangeland (Andersen 46), F Johnsen (Solli 46), Riise, Carew (H Flo 81).
Scotland: Douglas - Ross (Fletcher 60), Pressley, Webster, Naysmith, Dailly, Lambert, Ferguson, Cameron (Rae 85), Crawford (Devlin 79), Hutchison.

Aug 20 - Panama City - friendly
Panama 1 (Solis 77)
Paraguay 2 (Campos 7, Gamarra 17)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Porras (CR)
Panama: James - Guardia, Baloy, Moreno, Mendez (Stewart 80), M Torres, J Ortega (Tejada 46), Piggot (Henriquez 73), Solis, Garces (Palomino 84), Perez (Zapata 46).
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Caniza (Isasi 62), Gamarra, Da Silva, Toledo (J C Caceres 46), Bonet, Parades, Enciso (A Ortiz 47), Campos (Alvarenga 46), Roman (Morinigo 80), Bareiro (Avalos 82).

Aug 20 - Chaves - friendly
Portugal 1 (Simao 63)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rodriguez Santiago (Spa)
Portugal: Ricardo (Bruno Vale 81) - Miguel, Fernando Couto, Fernando Meira (Jorge Andrade 46), Rui Jorge (Nuno Valente 60), Costinha (Maniche 46), Hugo Viana, Rui Costa (Cristiano Ronaldo 46), Deco, Pauleta (Helder Postiga 60), Figo (Simao 46).
Kazakhstan: Novikov - Shkurin (Nurdauletov 84), Dubinsky, Artemov, Soloshenko, Semankov (Abdulin 87), Lovchev, Bogomolov (Lunev 73), Karpovits, Zhumaskaliyev (Aksenov 67), Buleshev.

Aug 20 - Moscow - friendly
Russia 1 (Semak 86)
Israel 2 (Nimni 52, Balili 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ishchenko (Ukr)
Russia: Ovchinnikov - V Berezutsky (Sennikov 46), A Berezutsky (Kovtun 46), Aldonin, Vasilyev (Gusev 20), Ignashevich, Bystrov, Sychev (Pavluchenko 46), Karyaka, Loskov (Khokhlov 46), Kerzhakov (Semak 46).
Israel: Elimelech - Harazi, Ben-Haim, Benado, Badir (Tal 64), Keisi, Uzan (Gershon 65), Revivo (Safrati 70), Nimni (Zandberg 72), Abuksis (Alberman 64), Benayoun (Balili 69).

Aug 20 - Murska Sobota - friendly
Slovenia 2 (Sukalo 3, Cimirotic 75)
Hungary 1 (M Feher 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Sowa (Aut)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Snofl, Knavs, Cipot (Vugdalic 46), Acimovic (Rakovic 89), Sukalo (Kapic 46), Seslar (Pavlin 46), N Ceh (Zlogar 87), Karic (Cesar 83), Zahovic, Siljak (Cimirotic 46). *Sent off: Zahovic 70min.*
Hungary: Kiraly (Vegh 46) - Lipcsei, Dragoner, Juhar, C Feher (Boor 75), Lisztes, Dardai (Farkas 70), Gera, Low (Fuzi 78), Szabics (M Feher 79), Kenesei (Kovacs 56).

Aug 20 - Norrkoping - friendly
Sweden 1 (A Svensson 16)
Greece 2 (Giannakopoulos 63, Kafes 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,018. **Ref:** Hyytia (Fin)
Sweden: Isaksson (Hedman 46) - Lucic, Mellberg, Michael Svensson, Dorsin (Edman 46), Linderoth, M Nilsson (Kallstrom 46), A Svensson (P Farnerud 46), A Johansson (Anders Andersson 64), Allback (Prica 22), Skoog (Jakobsson 72). *Sent off: Linderoth 45min.*
Greece: Nikopolidis - Seitaridis (Katsouranis 60), Kapsis (Dabizas 80), Dellas, Fissas (Venetidis 46), Giannakopoulos (Choutos 71), Karagounis (Georgiadis 46), Zagorakis (Basinas 46), Antzas, Nikolaidis (Kafes 46), Haristeas (Vryzas 46).

Aug 20 - Geneva - friendly
Switzerland 0
France 2 (Wiltord 12, Marlet 54)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Allaerts (Blg)
Switzerland: Stiel (Zuberbuhler 46) - Meyer, Henchoz, M Yakin (Zwyssig 46), Berner, Celestini (Wicky 77), Vogel (Cantaluppi 86), P Muller (Huggel 77), Cabanas, Frei, Chapuisat (Rama 46).
France: Barthez - Thuram (Sagnol 61), Desailly (Boumsong 78), Silvestre, Lizarazu, Wiltord (Cisse 70), Vieira (Pedretti 46), Dacourt (Dabo 84), Zidane (Giuly 70), Trezeguet (Pires 62), Henry (Marlet 46).

Aug 20 - Rades - friendly
Tunisia 0
Guinea 0
Att: 20,000
Tunisia: Azaiez - Bouzaiene (Mkacher), Zouaghi (Hagui), Benachour (Mouelhi), Chedli, Nafti (Ghodhbane), Yahia, Mhadhebi (El-Ouji), Missaoui (Salem), Ayari (Arafa), Selliti (Brahem).

Aug 20 - Ankara - friendly
Turkey 2 (Nihat 30, Okan Yilmaz 55)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,300. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Turkey: Rustu (Zafer 46; Omer 88) - Fatih Sonkaya (Fatih Akyel 46), Bulent (Ibrahim Toraman 63), Alpay (Servet 46), Ergun (Ibrahim Uzulmez 46), Okan Buruk (Serkan 46), Tumer (Tuncay 46), Tugay (Selcuk 46), Hasan Sas (Ahmet 63), Nihat (Gokdeniz 88), Hakan Sukur (Okan Yilmaz 46).
Moldova: Hmaruc - Andriuta, Catinsus, Priganiuc, Covalenco, Barisev (Cebotari 74), Ivanov, Boret (Calincov 89), Testemitanu (Miterev 43), Clescenco (Rogaciov 59), Dadu (Frunza 66).

Aug 20 - Donetsk - friendly
Ukraine 0
Romania 2 (Mutu pen 29, 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Yegorov (Rus)
Ukraine: Shovkovskyi - Fedorov, Tymoshchuk, Popov, Dmytrulin, Tkachenko (Husev 46), Shevchuk, Kalinichenko (Rebrov 46), Shevchenko, Voronin (Zakarlyuka 46), Vorobei (Zubov 73).
Romania: Stelea - Stoican, Rat (Rada 87), Iencsi, Chivu, Soava, A Stoica (Dumitru 46), D Munteanu (Aliuta 75), Pancu (Tamas 88), Mutu (Mitea 84), Oprita (D Niculae 46; Sanmartean 89).

Aug 20 - Maracaibo - friendly
Venezuela 3 (Vielma 78, H Gonzalez 83, Rivero 87)
Haiti 2 (Peguero 55, Maxo 69)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000
Venezuela: Angelucci (Sanhouse 46) - Vallenilla, Rey (Cichero 46), Vielma, Rojas, H Gonzalez, L Vera, M Mea Vitali (Villafraz 67), G Perez (Rivero 61), Moreno, Rondon (Maldonado 61).
Haiti: Fenelon - Guillaume, Sancius, Alcime, Dorcelus (Delsa 80), Germain, Corriolan, Romulus, Boucicat (Richardson 81), Peguero, Maxo (Chery 76).

Friday, August 22

Aug 22 - Beirut - friendly
Lebanon 1 (Atwi 57)
Syria 0
HT: 0-0
Lebanon: Saker (Samad) - Nimani, Mohammed, Kinaan, Haidar (Hamie), Hashem, Atwi (El-Choum), Wasef (Donabidian), Kassas, Jamal, Zein (Itani).
Syria: Beiruti - Jaban, Azizi (Abdulkarim), Humsi, Azam, Mendo, Abdeen (Akel), Maatuk, Sayed, Haddad, Turkmani (Shahma).

Tuesday, August 26

Aug 26 - Amman - friendly
Jordan 2 (Zema pen 21, Salim 83)
Iraq 1 (Hashim 60)
HT: 1-0

Wednesday, August 27

Aug 27 - Lima - friendly
Peru 0
Guatemala 0
Att: 2,000. **Ref:** Lecca (Per)
Peru: Butron - De la Haza, Pajuelo (Galliquio 46), Rodriguez, Vasquez (Corcuera 46), Ruiz (Guizazola 46), L Hernandez, Quinteros (Balbin 67), Cominges (Cruzado 67), Orejuela, Zuniga.
Guatemala: E Estrada (Motta 46) - Melgar, Martinez, Cabrera, Monterroso (Sandoval 46), Aguirre, Thompson, Ortiz (Rodriguez 71), Romero (Pezzarossi 46), J Gonzalez, Acevedo (E Gonzalez 65).

Saturday, August 30

Aug 30 - Bulawayo - COSAFA CC semi-final
Zimbabwe 2 (P Ndlovu 3, 53)
Swaziland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Antonio de Sousa (Ang)
Zimbabwe: Murambadoro - B Ndlovu, Madziva (Nyandoro 80), Kapenya, Mpofu, Dick, Nengomasha, Sibanda, Muhoni, Kawondera, P Ndlovu (Sandaka 89).
Swaziland: S Dube - C Dube, Gamedze, Masangane, Ngubane, Mthethwa, Nhleko, Msibi (Mkhwanazi 46), Siza Dlamini, Sibusiso Dlamini (Mamba 83), Tsabetse (M Dlamini 62).

Sunday, August 31

Aug 31 - La Paz - friendly
Bolivia 3 (Mendez 21, Ricaldi 51, L Gutierrez 84)
Panama 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Bolivia: Fernandez - Sanchez, Paz Garcia, Ricaldi, Gatti Ribeiro, Bengolea, Cristaldo (Justiniano 65), Rojas, Baldivieso (Cuellar 83), Andaveris (L Gutierrez 76), Mendez.
Panama: Gonzalez - Villarreal (Bailey 71), Guardia, Herrera, J Torres, Ramos, M Torres, Salinas, Zapata, Canales (Vega 46), Phillips (Aparicio 52).

Aug 31 - Fort Lauderdale, USA - friendly
Haiti 4
China 3

Thursday, September 4

Sep 4 - Dinard, France - friendly
Algeria 1 (Cherrad 26)
Qatar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 400
Algeria: Ousserir - Slatni, Zarabi, Zaoui, Mamouni, Mansouri, Kraouche, Hadjadj, Bendebka, Cherrad, Fellahi.

Saturday, September 6

Sep 6 - Guimaraes - friendly
Portugal 0
Spain 3 (Etxeberria 11, Joaquin 64, Diego Tristan 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 21,176. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)
Portugal: Ricardo (Quim 77) - Miguel, Fernando Couto, Fernando Meira (Jorge Andrade 46), Nuno Valente (Rui Jorge 46), Costinha, Maniche (Frechaut 68), Sergio Conceicao (Boa Morte 46), Rui Costa (Deco 61), Figo, Pauleta.
Spain: Casillas (Canizares 66) - Michel Salgado, Juanito, Marchena, Puyol (Romero 46), Xabi Alonso, Baraja (Xavi 46), Etxeberria (Joaquin 46), Vicente (Reyes 46), Raul (Diego Tristan 46), Fernando Torres (Valeron 45).

Sep 6 - friendly
Swaziland 0
Botswana 3
HT: 0-2

Sunday, September 7

Sep 7 - friendly
Angola 2
Namibia 0
HT: 1-0

Sep 7 - Reading, England - friendly
Australia 2 (Bresciano 19, Kewell 58)
Jamaica 1 (Lisbie 22)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,050. **Ref:** D'Urso (Eng)
Australia: Schwarzer (Kalac 46) - Neill, T Vidmar, Laybutt, Muscat, Okon, Skoko, Chipperfield, Bresciano, Kewell, Viduka (Sterjovski 85).
Jamaica: Ricketts - Ziadie, Sinclair, Marshall (Lowe 77), M Johnson, Daley, Gardner, Fuller (J Johnson 46), Hayles (Taylor 69), Benjamin (Stewart 59), Lisbie (Campbell-Ryce 79).

Sep 7 - Fort Lauderdale, USA - friendly
Costa Rica 2 (Saborio 13, Bryce 25)
China 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
Costa Rica: R Gonzalez - A Castro (Bennette 46), G Martinez, J Drummond, Chinchilla, L Gonzalez (J Gonzalez 58), M Solis (Lopez 58), Centeno, Bryce, Scott (Vallejos 87), Saborio (Vargas 69).

China: Liu Yunfei - Wei Xin, Li Ming (Lu Gang 75), Xiao Zhanbo, Yang Pu (Xu Yunlong 46), Liu Jindong, Li Xiaopeng (Du Ping 46), Zhao Junzhe, Zhou Ting, Zheng Bin (Qi Hong 67), Zhang Shuo (Yan Li 67).

Tuesday, September 9

Sep 9 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 2 (Connolly 35, Dunne 90)
Turkey 2 (Hakan Sukur 52, Okan Yilmaz 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Rep Ireland: Colgan (Murphy 76) - Finnan, Breen (Morrison 86), O'Brien (Dunne 76), Harte (Carr 90), Duff (Reid 46), Healy (McPhail 86), Kinsella, Kilbane, Connolly, Doherty.
Turkey: Rustu (Omer 62; Zafer 86) - Fatih Akyel, Alpay (Deniz 46), Bulent (Umit Davala 86), Ergun, Tayfun (Okan Buruk 46), Tugay (Ahmet 76), Emre Belozoglu (Gokdeniz 63), Hasan Sas (Ibrahim Uzulmez 46), Hakan Suker (Tumer 86), Tuncay (Okan Yilmaz 76).

Wednesday, September 10

Sep 10 - Niigata - friendly
Japan 0
Senegal 1 (P B Diop 6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000
Japan: Sogahata - Yamada, Miyamoto, Alex, Tsuboi, Nakamura, H Nakata, Inamoto, Endo (Ono 73), Yanagisawa (Kurobe 75), Okubo (Motoyama 64).
Senegal: Sylva - P M Diop, Diatta (Beye 62), Daf, Diawara, Diao, Amdy Faye (Sylvain N'Diaye 53), P B Diop, H Camara (Diabang 86), Niang (S Camara 62), Kamara (Ndoye 77).

Sep 10 - Marrakech - friendly
Morocco 2
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0

Sep 10 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 0
Portugal 1 (Pauleta 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bennett (Eng)
Norway: E Johnsen - Hangeland, Lundekvam, Basma (Aas 46), Riise, Andresen, Iversen, F Johnsen, Andersen (Solli 63), Brattbakk, T A Flo (H Flo 32).
Portugal: Ricardo - Miguel, Jorge Andrade, Fernando Couto, Rui Jorge, Costinha, Frechaut (Beto 64), Figo, Rui Costa (Deco 67), Boa Morte, Pauleta.

Sep 10 - friendly
Oman 1
Bahrain 0
HT: 1-0

Sep 10 - Tunis - friendly
Tunisia 3 (Chedli pen 18, Melki 70, Seghayer 83)
Ivory Coast 2 (Dindane 88, Kalou pen 93)
HT: 1-0
Tunisia: Boumnijel - Hagui (Yeken), Bouazizi, Jaidi (Bouzaiene), Clayton, Nafti (Seghayer), Chedli (Ghodhbane), Benachour, Jaziri (Melki; Missaoui), Mhadhebi (Mouelhi), Selliti (Zitouni).

WORLD CUP 2006 QUALIFIERS

32 finals berths
14 .....Europe (including hosts Germany)
5 .....Africa
4.5 .....Asia
4.5 .....South America
3.5 .....North & Central America
0.5 .....Oceania

SOUTH AMERICA

Sep 6 - Buenos Aires
Argentina 2 (Kily Gonzalez 31, Aimar 35)
Chile 2 (Mirosevic 60, Navia 77)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,000. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Argentina: Cavallero - Vivas, Ayala, Samuel, Zanetti, Veron (Almeyda 64), Kily Gonzalez, Aimar, D'Alessandro, C Delgado, Crespo (Saviola 72). *Sent off: Samuel 86min.*
Chile: N Tapia - Alvarez, Contreras, Olarra, R Perez, Marcos Gonzalez, Melendez (Mirosevic 40), Martel, Mark Gonzalez (Acuna 56), H Tapia (Pinilla 56), Navia. *Sent off: Alvarez 86min, Navia 90min.*

Sep 6 - Quito
Ecuador 2 (G Espinoza 5, C Tenorio 72)
Venezuela 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)
Ecuador: Cevallos - De la Cruz, I Hurtado, G Espinoza, Reasco, M Ayovi, Obregon, Chala, Mendez, A Aguinaga (O Tenorio 43), C Tenorio.
Venezuela: Angelucci - Vallenilla, Rey, Alvarado, Rojas, M Mea Vitali, Urdaneta (H Gonzalez 60), Jimenez, Paez (Noriega 52), Arango, Moran (Casseres 66).

Sep 6 - Lima
Peru 4 (Solano 34, Mendoza 42, Jorge Soto 83, Farfan 90)
Paraguay 1 (Gamarra 24)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 42,500 **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)
Peru: Delgado - Jorge Soto, Galliquio, Rebosio, Hidalgo, Jayo, C Zegarra, Solano (Jose Soto 88), Palacios (Ciurlizza 75), Mendoza (Farfan 69), Pizarro.
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Arce, Gamarra, Da Silva, J C Caceres, Toledo (Alvarenga 59), Bonet (Cuevas 80), Paredes, Enciso, Santa Cruz, Cardozo.

Sep 7 - Barranquilla
Colombia 1 (Angel 39)
Brazil 2 (Ronaldo 23, Kaka 62)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Colombia: O Cordoba - G Martinez, I Cordoba, Yepes, Bedoya (Perea 35), J Restrepo (Becerra 63), J Lopez, Patino (Molina 75), Hernandez, Grisales, Angel.
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Lucio, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Gilberto Silva, Emerson Ferreira (Renato 59), Ze Roberto, Alex (Kaka 59), Rivaldo (Diego 87), Ronaldo.

Sep 7 - Montevideo
Uruguay 5 (Forlan 17, Chevanton 40, 60, Abeijon 82, Bueno 87)
Bolivia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Uruguay: Munua - Gonzalez, Lopez, Lago, Nunez, Sosa (Abeijon 69), Liguera (R Olivera 75), Recoba, Chevanton, Bueno, Forlan (Sanchez 75).
Bolivia: Fernandez - Hoyos (Botero 65), J M Pena, O Sanchez, Ricaldi, Gatti Ribeiro (Justiniano 46), Rojas, Cristaldo, Morejon (Baldivieso 46), Mendez, J A Castillo. *Sent off: Ricaldi 67min.*

Sep 9 - Santiago
Chile 2 (Pinilla 35, Norambuena 70)
Peru 1 (Mendoza 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Chile: N Tapia - Contreras, R Rojas, Olarra, J Acuna, Marcos Gonzalez (B Gonzalez 46), R Perez, Martel (Pizarro 46), Mirosevic, H Tapia (Norambuena 67), Pinilla.
Peru: Delgado - Jorge Soto, Galliquio, Rebosio, Hidalgo, Jayo, C Zegarra, Palacios (Farfan 74), Solano (Jose Soto 81), Pizarro, Mendoza.

Sep 9 - Caracas
Venezuela 0
Argentina 3 (Aimar 7, Crespo 25, C Delgado 31)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 36,000. **Ref:** Vazquez (Uru)
Venezuela: Angelucci - H Gonzalez (Vallenilla 46), Rey, Alvarado, Rojas, L Vera, Jimenez, Paez, Arango (Moreno 62), Noriega, Moran (Urdaneta 46).
Argentina: Cavallero - Vivas, Ayala, Placente, Zanetti, Veron, Kily Gonzalez, Aimar (Heinze 63), D'Alessandro (L Gonzalez 86), C Delgado (Almeyda 81), Crespo.

Sep 10 - La Paz
Bolivia 4 (Baldivieso pen 12, Botero 27, 48, 58)
Colombia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)
Bolivia: L Fernandez (J C Fernandez 46) - Gatti Ribeiro, O Sanchez, Paz Garcia, J M Pena, Rojas (R Garcia 74), Cristaldo, Baldivieso, Roger Suarez (Justiniano 62), Mendez, Botero.
Colombia: O Cordoba - G Martinez, I Cordoba, Yepes, Cortes, Viafara, Vargas (J Restrepo 46), Patino (Molina 46), Hernandez (R Castillo 46), Angel, Aristizabal. *Sent off: I Cordoba 63min.*

Sep 10 - Manaus
Brazil 1 (Ronaldinho 13)
Ecuador 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Solorzano (Ven)
Brazil: Dida - Cafu, Lucio, Roque Junior, Roberto Carlos, Gilberto Silva, Emerson Ferreira (Renato), Ze Roberto, Ronaldinho (Kaka), Rivaldo (Alex), Ronaldo.
Ecuador: Cevallos - De la Cruz, Hurtado, Espinoza, Reasco, Mendez, E Tenorio, Obregon, Ayovi, Chala, C Tenorio (O Tenorio).

Sep 10 - Asuncion
Paraguay 4 (Cardozo 26, 57, 72, Paredes 54)
Uruguay 1 (Chevanton 23)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Paraguay: Villar - Arce, Caceres, Gamarra, Da Silva, Bonet, Enciso, Paredes, Campos (Gavilan), Santa Cruz, Cardozo.
Uruguay: Munua - Gonzalez, Aguiar, Sorondo, Regueiro (Nunez), Abeijon, Giacomazzi (Liguera), Oliveira, Bueno (Recoba), Chevanton, Forlan.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Argentina	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Chile	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Uruguay	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Peru	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Ecuador	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Paraguay	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Bolivia	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Colombia	2	0	0	2	1	6	0
Venezuela	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Top four in section qualify automatically for the finals; fifth-placed side enter a qualifying play-off

06.09.03 .....Argentina-Chile 2-2
06.09.03 .....Ecuador-Venezuela 2-0
06.09.03 .....Peru-Paraguay 4-1
07.09.03 .....Colombia-Brazil 1-2
07.09.03 .....Uruguay-Bolivia 5-0
09.09.03 .....Chile-Peru 2-1
09.09.03 .....Venezuela-Argentina 0-3
10.09.03 .....Bolivia-Colombia 4-0
10.09.03 .....Brazil-Ecuador 1-0
10.09.03 .....Paraguay-Uruguay 4-1
15/16.11.03 .....Argentina-Bolivia
15/16.11.03 .....Colombia-Venezuela
15/16.11.03 .....Paraguay-Ecuador
15/16.11.03 .....Peru-Brazil
15/16.11.03 .....Uruguay-Chile
18/19.11.03 .....Brazil-Uruguay
18/19.11.03 .....Chile-Paraguay
18/19.11.03 .....Colombia-Argentina
18/19.11.03 .....Ecuador-Peru
18/19.11.03 .....Venezuela-Bolivia
30/31.03.04 .....Argentina-Ecuador
30/31.03.04 .....Bolivia-Chile
30/31.03.04 .....Paraguay-Brazil
30/31.03.04 .....Peru-Colombia
30/31.03.04 .....Uruguay-Venezuela
01/02.06.04 .....Bolivia-Paraguay
01/02.06.04 .....Brazil-Argentina
01/02.06.04 .....Ecuador-Colombia
01/02.06.04 .....Uruguay-Peru
01/02.06.04 .....Venezuela-Chile
04/05.06.04 .....Argentina-Paraguay
04/05.06.04 .....Chile-Brazil
04/05.06.04 .....Colombia-Uruguay
04/05.06.04 .....Ecuador-Bolivia
04/05.06.04 .....Peru-Venezuela
04/05.09.04 .....Brazil-Bolivia
04/05.09.04 .....Chile-Colombia
04/05.09.04 .....Paraguay-Venezuela
04/05.09.04 .....Peru-Argentina
04/05.09.04 .....Uruguay-Ecuador
09/10.10.04 .....Argentina-Uruguay
09/10.10.04 .....Bolivia-Peru
09/10.10.04 .....Colombia-Paraguay
09/10.10.04 .....Ecuador-Chile
09/10.10.04 .....Venezuela-Brazil
12/13.10.04 .....Bolivia-Uruguay
12/13.10.04 .....Brazil-Colombia
12/13.10.04 .....Chile-Argentina
12/13.10.04 .....Paraguay-Peru
12/13.10.04 .....Venezuela-Ecuador
16/17.11.04 .....Argentina-Venezuela
16/17.11.04 .....Colombia-Bolivia
16/17.11.04 .....Ecuador-Brazil
16/17.11.04 .....Peru-Chile
16/17.11.04 .....Uruguay-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 .....Bolivia-Argentina
26/27.03.05 .....Brazil-Peru
26/27.03.05 .....Chile-Uruguay
26/27.03.05 .....Ecuador-Paraguay
26/27.03.05 .....Venezuela-Colombia
29/30.03.05 .....Argentina-Colombia
29/30.03.05 .....Bolivia-Venezuela
29/30.03.05 .....Paraguay-Chile
29/30.03.05 .....Peru-Ecuador
29/30.03.05 .....Uruguay-Brazil
04/05.06.05 .....Brazil-Paraguay
04/05.06.05 .....Chile-Bolivia
04/05.06.05 .....Colombia-Peru
04/05.06.05 .....Ecuador-Argentina
04/05.06.05 .....Venezuela-Uruguay
07/08.06.05 .....Argentina-Brazil
07/08.06.05 .....Chile-Venezuela
07/08.06.05 .....Colombia-Ecuador
07/08.06.05 .....Paraguay-Bolivia
07/08.06.05 .....Peru-Uruguay
03/04.09.05 .....Bolivia-Ecuador
03/04.09.05 .....Brazil-Chile
03/04.09.05 .....Paraguay-Argentina
03/04.09.05 .....Uruguay-Colombia
03/04.09.05 .....Venezuela-Peru
08/09.10.05 .....Argentina-Peru
08/09.10.05 .....Bolivia-Brazil
08/09.10.05 .....Colombia-Chile
08/09.10.05 .....Ecuador-Uruguay
08/09.10.05 .....Venezuela-Paraguay
11/12.10.05 .....Brazil-Venezuela
11/12.10.05 .....Chile-Ecuador
11/12.10.05 .....Paraguay-Colombia
11/12.10.05 .....Peru-Bolivia
11/12.10.05 .....Uruguay-Argentina

AFRICA

Preliminary round

Botswana v Lesotho
Burkina Faso v Central African Republic
Burundi v Gabon
Chad v Angola
Congo v Sierra Leone
Equatorial Guinea v Togo
Ethiopia v Malawi
Gambia v Liberia
Guinea v Mozambique
Guinea-Bissau v Mali
Madagascar v Benin
Niger v Algeria
Rwanda v Namibia
Sao Tome e Principe v Libya
Seychelles v Zambia
Somalia v Ghana
Sudan v Eritrea
Swaziland v Cape Verde Islands
Tanzania v Kenya
Uganda v Mauritius
Zimbabwe v Mauritania
1st legs, October 10-12, 2003;
2nd legs, November 14-16, 2003

Winners progress to qualifying groups

Byes: Cameroon, DR Congo, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia

The 30 qualifying countries will be drawn into five groups of six, with the winners going to the finals

ASIAN CUP 2004 QUALIFIERS

Group A

06.11.03 .....Thailand-Tajikistan
06.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Uzbekistan
08.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Tajikistan
08.11.03 .....Uzbekistan-Thailand
10.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Thailand
10.11.03 .....Tajikistan-Uzbekistan
17.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Thailand
17.11.03 .....Uzbekistan-Tajikistan
19.11.03 .....Tajikistan-Thailand
19.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Uzbekistan
21.11.03 .....Hong Kong-Tajikistan
21.11.03 .....Thailand-Uzbekistan

Group B

Sep 4 - Singapore
Singapore 1 (Goncalves 50)
Kuwait 3 (Neda 10, Al-Mutwa, Naha 90)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Al-Tayer (Kuwait)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Palestine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qatar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

04.09.03 .....Singapore-Kuwait 1-3
14.09.03 .....Kuwait-Qatar
20.09.03 .....Qatar-Kuwait
24.09.03 .....Palestine-Qatar
27.09.03 .....Kuwait-Singapore
27.09.03 .....Qatar-Palestine
05.10.03 .....Kuwait-Palestine
08.10.03 .....Palestine-Kuwait
19.10.03 .....Singapore-Palestine
22.10.03 .....Palestine-Singapore
19.11.03 .....Qatar-Singapore
29.11.03 .....Singapore-Qatar

Group C

06.10.03 .....Saudi Arabia-Yemen
06.10.03 .....Indonesia-Bhutan
08.10.03 .....Yemen-Indonesia
08.10.03 .....Saudi Arabia-Bhutan
10.10.03 .....Saudi Arabia-Indonesia
10.10.03 .....Bhutan-Yemen
13.10.03 .....Yemen-Saudi Arabia
13.10.03 .....Bhutan-Indonesia
15.10.03 .....Indonesia-Yemen
15.10.03 .....Bhutan-Saudi Arabia
17.10.03 .....Indonesia-Saudi Arabia
17.10.03 .....Yemen-Bhutan

Group D

Sep 4 - Pyongyang
North Korea 0
Lebanon 1 (Farah 56)
HT: 0-0

Sep 5 - Tehran
Iran 4 (Daei 45, 90, Vahedinikbakht 75, Mobali 82)
Jordan 1 (Mansur 3)
HT: 1-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Lebanon	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
North Korea	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Jordan	1	0	0	1	1	4	0

04.09.03 .....North Korea-Lebanon 0-1
05.09.03 .....Iran-Jordan 4-1
17.09.03 .....Jordan-Lebanon
18.09.03 .....North Korea-Iran
26.09.03 .....Jordan-Iran
27.09.03 .....Lebanon-North Korea
12.11.03 .....Lebanon-Jordan
14.11.03 .....Iran-North Korea
18.11.03 .....Jordan-North Korea
19.11.03 .....Lebanon-Iran
28.11.03 .....Iran-Lebanon
29.11.03 .....North Korea-Jordan

Group E

25.09.03 .....Nepal-Oman
25.09.03 .....South Korea-Vietnam
27.09.03 .....Vietnam-Nepal
27.09.03 .....South Korea-Oman
29.09.03 .....Oman-Vietnam
29.09.03 .....South Korea-Nepal
19.10.03 .....Oman-Nepal
19.10.03 .....South Korea-Vietnam
21.10.03 .....Vietnam-Nepal
21.10.03 .....Oman-South Korea
24.10.03 .....South Korea-Nepal
24.10.03 .....Oman-Vietnam

Group F

08.10.03 .....Bahrain-Iraq
08.10.03 .....Malaysia-Myanmar
10.10.03 .....Myanmar-Bahrain
10.10.03 .....Malaysia-Iraq
12.10.03 .....Iraq-Myanmar
12.10.03 .....Malaysia-Bahrain
20.10.03 .....Malaysia-Iraq
20.10.03 .....Bahrain-Myanmar
22.10.03 .....Myanmar-Iraq
22.10.03 .....Bahrain-Malaysia
24.10.03 .....Malaysia-Myanmar
24.10.03 .....Bahrain-Iraq

Group G

15.10.03 .....Syria-Sri Lanka
18.10.03 .....Syria-Sri Lanka
19.10.03 .....Turkmenistan-UAE
30.10.03 .....UAE-Turkmenistan
07.11.03 .....Syria-UAE
09.11.03 .....Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka
12.11.03 .....Turkmenistan-Sri Lanka
14.11.03 .....UAE-Syria
18.11.03 .....UAE-Sri Lanka
21.11.03 .....Syria-Turkmenistan
22.11.03 .....UAE-Sri Lanka
29.11.03 .....Turkmenistan-Syria

Group winners and runners-up qualify for finals

China (hosts) and Japan (holders) qualify automatically for finals

UNDER-17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

In Finland

Group A

Aug 13 - Helsinki
Finland 2 (Parikka 6, Petrescu 64)
China 1 (Jiang Chen 4)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,344. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)
Sent off: Mao Jianqing (China) 90min

Aug 13 - Helsinki
Mexico 0
Colombia 0
Att: 3,500. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Sent off: Bolivar (Colombia) 81min

Aug 16 - Helsinki
China 1 (Wang Yongpo 67)
Colombia 2 (Guarin pen 73, Hernandez 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,100. **Ref:** Piper (T&T)

Aug 16 - Helsinki
Finland 0
Mexico 2 (Ceja 39, O Herrera 51)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,176. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)

Aug 19 - Helsinki
China 3 (Wang Yongpo 35, Jiang Chen 61, 81)
Mexico 3 (Flores 51, Mariaca 73, Murguia 78)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Damon (SAf)
Sent off: Cai Xi (China) 72min; O Gonzalez (Mexico) 72min

Aug 19 - Helsinki
Colombia 9 (Hidalgo 16, pen 32, 50, 61, Ramos 36, 68, 71, Guarin 63, Nunez 74)
Finland 1 (Petrescu 41)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 10,200. **Ref:** Brazenas (Arg)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	3	2	1	0	11	2	7
Mexico	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Finland	3	1	0	2	3	12	3
China	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

Group B

Aug 13 - Turku
Argentina 2 (Garay 6, Colzera 69)
Australia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,124. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)
Sent off: Boogaard (Aus) 41min

Aug 13 - Turku
Costa Rica 1 (Arias 83)
Nigeria 1 (Bala 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,292. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)

Aug 16 - Turku
Australia 1 (Giraldi 2)
Nigeria 2 (Mikel 73, Bala 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,502. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)

Aug 16 - Turku
Argentina 2 (Peirone 84, 90)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,462. **Ref:** Damon (SAf)

Aug 19 - Turku
Nigeria 0
Argentina 1 (Faurlin 59)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,104. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)

Aug 19 - Turku
Australia 0
Costa Rica 2 (P Rodriguez pen 62, Salazar 75)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,424. **Ref:** Al-Ghamdi (Sau)
Sent off: Hilton (Australia) 39min; Salazar (Costa Rica) 79min

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
Costa Rica*	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Nigeria*	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Australia	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

**Costa Rica qualified after drawing of lots*

Group C

Aug 14 - Tampere
Yemen 3 (Al-Baadani 31, Sharyan 47, Marcio Sousa og 77)
Portugal 4 (Marcio Sousa 56, Manuel Curto 68, Manuel Fernandes 80, Al-Safi og 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,400. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
Sent off: Al-Selwi (Yemen) 90min

Aug 14 - Tampere
Cameroon 1 (Mawaye 5)
Brazil 1 (Abuda 38)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,250. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Sent off: Mbia 43min, Momo 69min (both Cameroon)

Aug 17 - Tampere
Portugal 0
Brazil 5 (Leo 20, Abuda 52, Ederson pen 68, Evandro 77, Thyago 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,190. **Ref:** Brazenas (Arg)

Aug 17 - Tampere
Yemen 1 (Juaim 90)
Cameroon 1 (Mawaye 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,855. **Ref:** Maillet (Sey)

Aug 20 - Tampere
Brazil 3 (Evandro 28, 32, Arouca 86)
Yemen 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,896. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Sent off: Al-Qor 84min, Al-Worafi 88min (both Yemen)

Aug 20 - Tampere
Portugal 5 (Vieira 21, Manuel Curto 36, 43, 44, Bruno Gama 52)
Cameroon 5 (Tiago Costa og 70, Ngal 74, 76, Nguemo 88, Mbia 90)
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 4,723. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	1	0	9	1	7
Portugal	3	1	1	1	9	13	4
Cameroon	3	0	3	0	7	7	3
Yemen	3	0	1	2	4	8	1

Group D

Aug 14 - Lahti
South Korea 1 (Owens og 11)
United States 6 (Adu 16, 89, pen 90, Owens 26, Watson 54, Curfman 75)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,240. **Ref:** Maillet (Sey)

Aug 14 - Lahti
Spain 3 (David 8, Sisi 15, Xisco 90)
Sierra Leone 3 (Barlay 34, 73, Ruz og 36)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 3,150. **Ref:** Al-Ghamdi (Sau)
Sent off: Arzo (Spain) 28min

Aug 17 - Lahti
United States 2 (Gonzalez pen 45, Adu 89)
Sierra Leone 1 (A Sesay 32)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,950. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)

Aug 17 - Lahti
South Korea 2 (Yang Dong-hyen 45, Sanchez og 59)
Spain 3 (Silva 65, 73, 76)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,470. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)

Aug 20 - Lahti
Sierra Leone 2 (Metzger 36, 51)
South Korea 3 (Han Dong-won 28, Yang Dong-hyen 74, Lee Yong-rae 78)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,475. **Ref:** Rakaroi (Fij)

Aug 20 - Lahti
United States 0
Spain 2 (Jurado 11, Cesc 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,825. **Ref:** Lopes (Bra)
Sent off: Silva (Spain) 45min

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
United States	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
South Korea	3	1	0	2	6	11	3
Sierra Leone	3	0	1	2	6	8	1

Top two from each group qualified for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

Aug 23 - Helsinki
Colombia 2 (Otalvaro 25, 43)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,340. **Ref:** Maillet (Sey)

Aug 23 - Lahti
Argentina 2 (Cardozo 34, Peirone 45)
Mexico 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 5,030. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)

Aug 24 - Turku
Brazil 3 (Leonardo 18, Ederson 61, Evandro 64)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,150. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)

Aug 24 - Tampere
Spain 5 (Sanchez 28, Cesc 42, 78, Xisco 50, Jurado pen 90)
Portugal 2 (Manuel Curto 3, Vieira 87)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 5,387. **Ref:** Brazenas (Arg)

Semi-finals

Aug 27 - Tampere
Colombia 0
Brazil 2 (Abuda 16, 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,675. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Mex)
Colombia: Arenas - Zapata (Hernandez 66), Vargas,
J C Morales, H Morales, Armero, Otalvaro, Guarin, Bolivar, Hidalgo (Nunez 67), Ramos.
Brazil: Bruno - Leo (Marlon 81), Joao, Leonardo, Junior (Arthur 90), Sandro, Jonathan, Arouca, Ederson (Felipe 78), Evandro, Abuda.

Aug 27 - Helsinki
Argentina 2 (Biglia 4, Garay 31)
Spain 3 (Cesc 48, 117 - golden goal, Jurado 53)
Aet. **HT:** 2-0. **90mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 5,030. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Argentina: Ustari - Garay, Alvarado, Biglia (Faurlin 52), Formica, Cardozo, Diaz, Colzera (Lagos 71), Acevedo, D'Alegre (Sanchez 94), Peirone. *Sent off: Cardozo 55min.*
Spain: Mandaluniz - Ruz, Raul Llorente (Arzo 70), Francis, Sanchez, Sisi, Markel, Jurado, Xisco (Cases 94), Cesc, Oskitz (David 46). *Sent off: Ruz 113min.*

Third-place play-off

Aug 30 - Helsinki
Colombia 1 (Hidalgo pen 53)
Argentina 1 (Lagos 4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,400. **Ref:** Maillet (Sey)
Argentina 5-4 on pens
Colombia: Arenas - Estacio, Vargas, J C Morales, H Morales, Armero (Movil 73), Otalvaro, Guarin, Bolivar (Palacio 79), Hidalgo, Ramos (Nunez 87).
Argentina: Ustari - Garay, Alvarado, Formica, Diaz, Colzera, Lagos, D'Alegre, Faurlin, Peirone (Luduena 46), Gago (Hassell 80).

Final

Aug 30 - Toolo stadium, Helsinki
Brazil 1 (Leonardo 7)
Spain 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,452. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)
Brazil: Bruno - Leo, Joao (captain), Leonardo, Junior, Sandro, Jonathan, Arouca, Ederson (Juliano 69), Evandro (Felipe 85), Abuda (Hugo 90).
Spain: Mandaluniz - Francis (captain), Sanchez (Cases 89), Sisi (David 79), Markel, Silva (Oskitz 84), Jurado, Pallardo, Arzo, Xisco, Cesc.

EUROPE

EUROPEAN SUPERCUP

Aug 29 - Monaco
Milan (Ita) 1 (Shevchenko 10)
FC Porto (Por) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,500. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)
Milan: Dida - Simic, Nesta, Maldini, Pancaro, Gattuso, Pirlo, Rui Costa (Cafu 86), Seedorf (Ambrosini 70), Shevchenko (Rivaldo 76), Inzaghi.
Porto: Vitor Baia - Paulo Ferreira, Jorge Costa, Ricardo Carvalho, Ricardo Costa, Alenichev (Ricardo Fernandes 76), Deco, Costinha (Bosingwa 67), Maniche, McCarthy (Jankauskas 60), Derlei.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

3rd qual rnd, 2nd legs

August 26

Chelsea (Eng) 3 (Johnson 32, Huth 67, Hasselbaink 79)
MSK Zilina (Slk) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Chelsea 5-0 on agg

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) 1 (Luque 16)
Rosenborg (Nor) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Deportivo 1-0 on agg

Sparta Prague (Cze) 2 (Poborsky 33, Sionko 85)
Vardar Skopje (Mac) 2 (Georgievski 31, Anyanviu 66)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
Sparta 5-4 on agg

Wisla Krakow (Pol) 0
Anderlecht (Blg) 1 (Dindane 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)
Anderlecht 4-1 on agg

August 27

AEK Athens (Gre) 3 (Katsouranis 20, Limberopoulos 25, Castillo og 39)
Grasshopper (Swi) 1 (Nunez 68)
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Sent off: Castillo (Grasshopper) 75min
AEK 3-2 on agg

Ajax (Hol) 2 (Ibrahimovic 15, Galasek pen 103 - silver goal)
Grazer AK (Aut) 1 (Kollmann 40)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Sent off: Potscher 97min, Ehmann 102min (both Grazer)
Ajax 3-2 on agg

Benfica (Por) 0
Lazio (Ita) 1 (Cesar 28)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Lazio 4-1 on agg

Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 2 (Amoroso 3, Ewerthon 86)
Club Brugge (Blg) 1 (Mendoza 27)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 2-1. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
Sent off: Rozehnal (Club Brugge) 112min
Agg 3-3. Club Brugge 4-2 on pens

Celtic (Sco) 1 (Sutton 14)
MTK (Hun) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Celtic 5-0 on agg

FC Copenhagen (Den) 1 (Santos 83)
Rangers (Sco) 2 (Arteta pen 52, Arveladze 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Siric (Cro)
Rangers 3-2 on agg

CSKA Sofia (Bul) 0
Galatasaray (Tur) 3 (Cesar Prates 28, Sabri 53, Arif 86)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Galatasaray 6-0 on agg

Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0
Kyiv Dynamo (Ukr) 2 (Shatskikh 47, Diogo Rincon 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Kyiv Dynamo 5-1 on agg

Lokomotiv Moscow (Rus) 3 (Ashvetia 20, 44, Ignashevich pen 86)
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 1 (Lewandowski 71)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Lokomotiv 3-2 on agg

Marseille (Fra) 0
Austria Wien (Aut) 0
Ref: Frisk (Swe)
Marseille 1-0 on agg

Newcastle United (Eng) 0
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 1 (Iliev 50)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-1. **Ref:** Wegereef (Hol)
Agg 1-1. Partizan 4-3 on pens

Slavia Prague (Cze) 2 (Dostalek 18, Hrdlicka 30)
Celta Vigo (Spa) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Sent off: Mostovoi (Celta) 81min
Celta 3-2 on agg

UEFA CUP

Qual rnd, 2nd legs

August 27

Atlantas (Lit) 1 (Tarvydas 90)
Groclin Grodzisk (Pol) 4 (Rasiak 30, Krizanac 34, Niedzielna 47, 65)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Kos (Sln)
Groclin 6-1 on agg

Zhenis Astana (Kaz) 1 (Kozulin 89)
Viktoria Zizkov (Cze) 3 (Oravec 14, Pikl 27, Chihuri 79)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Stadsgaard (Den)
Zizkov 6-1 on agg

August 28

Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) 1 (Rascic og 20)
Zeljeznicar (Bos) 3 (Gredic 8, Jahic 25, 72)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Bertini (Ita)
Zeljeznicar 4-1 on agg

Banants (Arm) 1 (Amiryan 67)
Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 2 (Solchaga 13, Ederi 53)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Haverkort (Hol)
Hapoel 3-2 on agg

Belasica (Mac) 0
Publikum (Sln) 5 (Budimir 30, Kriznik 37, Cadikovski 64, Kvas 72, Plastovski 75)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Casha (Mlt)
Publikum 12-2 on agg

Debrecen (Hun) 2 (Bajzat 41, 97 - silver goal)
Ekranas (Lit) 1 (Kavaliauskas 60)
Aet. **HT:** 1-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Janku (Alb)
Sent off: Klimavicius (Ekranas) 71min
Debrecen 3-2 on agg

Derry City (Ire) 0
APOEL Nicosia (Cyp) 3 (Malekkos 36, Charalambides 80, Papandreon 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
Sent off: Amanatidis (APOEL) 63min
APOEL 5-1 on agg

Dinamo Minsk (Bls) 0
Brondby (Den) 2 (Retov 25, Jonson 81)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Styles (Eng)
Brondby 5-0 on agg

Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk (Ukr) 1 (Rykun 75)
Vaduz (Lie) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gadiyev (Aze)
Dnipro 2-0 on agg

Domagnano (SaM) 0
Torpedo Moscow (Rus) 4
Ref: Johnsdorf (Lux)
Torpedo 9-0 on agg

Dundee (Sco) 4 (Novo 2, 89, Sara 41, Rae 49)
Vllaznia (Alb) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Bertolini (Swi)
Dundee 6-0 on agg

F91 Dudelange (Lux) 0
Artmedia Petrzalka (Slk) 1 (Durica 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gerasimou (Cyp)
Petrzalka 2-0 on agg

Ferencvaros (Hun) 1 (Dragoner 90)
Birkirkara (Mlt) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Ferencvaros 6-0 on agg

Fylkir (Ice) 0
AIK Stockholm (Swe) 0
Ref: Whitby (Wal)
Sent off: Rubarth (AIK) 20min
AIK 1-0 on agg

Grindavik (Ice) 1 (R Jonsson 74)
Karnten (Aut) 1 (Hota 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Sent off: Hieblinger (Karnten) 61min
Karnten 3-2 on agg

Hajduk Split (Cro) 1 (Racunica 9)
FC Haka (Fin) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Almeida Costa (Por)
Agg 2-2. Hajduk on away goals

Kamen Ingrad (Cro) 7 (Bajsic pen 33, Popovic 49, 60, Lisnic 63, Kovac 68, Kopunovic 82, 87)
Etzella Ettelbruck (Lux) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Sent off: Kovac (Kamen Ingrad) 90min
Kamen Ingrad 9-1 on agg

Katowice (Pol) 1 (Kowalczyk 57)
Cementarnica (Mac) 1 (Bajramovski 24)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sandmoen (Nor)
Sent off: Toleski (Cementarnica) 90min
Agg 1-1. Cementarnica on away goals

Kl Klaksvik (Far) 0
Molde (Nor) 4 (Berg Hestad 28, F Gustafson 35, Hulsker 75, Ljung 89)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Hyytia (Fin)
Molde 6-0 on agg

Levski Sofia (Bul) 2 (Angelov pen 27, Telkiyski 69)
Atyrau (Kaz) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Faustino Benquerenca (Por)
Levski 6-1 on agg

Lokeren (Blg) 3 (Baldvinsson 29, Fofana 56, 77)
Dinamo Tirana (Alb) 1 (Xhihani 11)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Kaldma (Est)
Lokeren 7-1 on agg

Lyn Oslo (Nor) 6 (Hadzihmemedovic 11, 31, 42, 49, 50, 58)
NSI Runavik (Far) 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Lattik (Est)
Lyn 9-1 on agg

Maccabi Haifa (Isr) 3 (Katan 33, Rosso 45, Zandberg 61)
Cwmbran Town (Wal) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Beck (Lie)
(Played in Izmir, Turkey)
Maccabi 6-0 on agg

Metalurgs Liepaja (Lat) 1 (Grebis 45)
Dinamo Bucharest (Rom) 1 (Zicu 24)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Laursen (Den)
Dinamo 6-3 on agg

Neuchatel Xamax (Swi) 2 (Griffiths 45, Portillo 90)
Valletta (Mlt) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Malzinskas (Lit)
Neuchatel 4-0 on agg

Nistru Otaci (Mol) 2 (Bursuc 27, 65)
Red Star Belgrade (Ser) 3 (Bogavac 2, Krivokapic 10, Perovic 87)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Sowa (Aut)
Red Star 8-2 on agg

Portadown (NI) 0
Malmo (Swe) 2 (Ljeh 61, 64)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Hovhannisyan (Arm)
Malmo 6-0 on agg

Santa Coloma (And) 1 (Walker 38)
Esbjerg (Den) 4 (Lovenkrands 9, Thorup 10, Hansen 31, Hogh 62)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Krajnc (Sln)
Sent off: Ferron (Santa Coloma) 55min
Esbjerg 9-1 on agg

Sartid (Ser) 3 (Pantelic pen 30, Zecevic 65, Mudrinic 89)
Sarajevo (Bos) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Godulyan (Ukr)
Sent off: Alic (Sarajevo) 88min
Sartid 4-1 on agg

Shelbourne (Ire) 2 (Cahill 15, J Byrne 90)
Olimpija Ljubljana (Sln) 3 (Jusufbegovic 9, Zlogar 45, Kmetec 56)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice)
Olimpija 4-2 on agg

Shirak Gyumri (Arm) 0
Nordsjaelland (Den) 2 (Rasmussen 43, 89)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Havrilla (Slk)
Nordsjaelland 6-0 on agg

Sioni Bolnisi (Geo) 0
Matador Puchov (Slk) 3 (Nemec 17, 34, Gegic 45)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Stanisic (Ser)
Puchov 6-0 on agg

Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 0
Neman (Bls) 0
Ref: Halsey (Eng)
Agg 1-1. Steaua on away goals

Tallinna VMK (Est) 0
OB Odense (Den) 3 (Berg 68, Miti 80, 84)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Richmond (Sco)
OB 4-1 on agg

Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) 0
Lens (Fra) 2 (Bakari 35, 41)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Bede (Hun)
Lens 5-0 on agg

Total Network Solutions (Wal) 0
Manchester City (Eng) 2 (Negouai 42, Huckerby 80)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Szabo (Hun)
Man City 7-0 on agg

Uniao Leiria (Por) 5 (Ludemar 59, 77, Edson 73, 75, Caico 89)
Coleraine (NI) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Dvoracek (Cze)
Sent off: Beatty 24min, Clanachan 84min (both Coleraine)
Leiria 6-2 on agg

Varteks (Cro) 3 (Karic 34, Kristic 58, Safaric 71)
Levadia Maardu (Est) 2 (Leitan 72, 87)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Cichy (Slk)
Varteks 6-3 on agg

Wisla Plock (Pol) 2 (Jelen 13, 41)
Ventspils (Lat) 2 (Rimkus 51, Zangareev 68)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Berntsen (Nor)
Sent off: Wasilewski (Wisla) 74min
Agg 3-3. Ventspils on away goals

Young Boys (Swi) 2 (Sermeter 24, 77)
MyPa (Fin) 2 (Luiz Antonio 71, Taipale 86)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
MyPa 5-4 on agg

Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 2 (Balasa 67, Cebotari pen 81)
Litex Lovech (Bul) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Malek (Pol)
Zimbru 2-0 on agg

1st rnd draw

AIK Stockholm v Valencia (Spa)
Austria Wien (Aut) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
Auxerre (Fra) v Neuchatel Xamax
Benfica (Por) v La Louviere (Blg)
Bordeaux (Fra) v Artmedia Petrzalka
Brondby v Viktoria Zizkov*
Cementarnica v Lens
CSKA Sofia (Bul) v Torpedo Moscow
Dinamo Bucharest v Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) v MTK (Hun)
Dundee v Perugia (Ita)
Ferencvaros v FC Copenhagen (Den)
Feyenoord (Hol) v Karnten
Gaziantepspor (Tur) v Hapoel Tel Aviv
Genclerbirligi (Tur) v Blackburn Rovers (Eng)
Grasshopper (Swi) v Hajduk Split
Hamburg (Ger) v Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk
Hapoel Ramat-Gan (Isr) v Levski Sofia
Hearts (Sco) v Zeljeznicar
Hertha Berlin (Ger) v Groclin Grodzisk
Kaiserslautern (Ger) v Teplice (Cze)
Liverpool (Eng) v Olimpija Ljubljana
Maccabi Haifa v Publikum
Malatyaspor (Tur) v Basle (Swi)
Mallorca (Spa) v APOEL Nicosia
Manchester City v Lokeren
Matador Puchov v Barcelona (Spa)
Metalurh Donetsk (Ukr) v Parma (Ita)
Moscow Spartak (Rus) v Esbjerg
MyPa v Sochaux (Fra)
Newcastle United (Eng) v NAC Breda (Hol)
OB Odense v Red Star Belgrade
Panionios (Gre) v Nordsjaelland
PAOK Salonika (Gre) v Lyn Oslo
Roma (Ita) v Vardar Skopje (Mac)
Sartid v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Schalke (Ger) v Kamen Ingrad
Southampton (Eng) v Steaua Bucharest
Sporting Lisbon (Por) v Malmo
Udinese (Ita) v Salzburg (Aut)
Uniao Leiria v Molde
Utrecht (Hol) v MSK Zilina (Slk)
Valerenga (Nor) v Grazer AK (Aut)
Varteks v Debrecen
Ventspils v Rosenborg (Nor)
Villarreal (Spa) v Trabzonspor (Tur)
Wisla Krakow (Pol) v NEC Nijmegen (Hol)
Zimbru Chisinau v Aris Thessaloniki (Gre)
1st legs, September 24; 2nd legs, October 15
*(*2nd leg, October 16)*

INTERTOTO CUP

Finals, 2nd legs

Aug 26: Schalke (Ger) 0 Pasching (Aut) 0 *Schalke 2-0 on agg*; Villarreal (Spa) 0 Heerenveen (Hol) 0 *Villarreal 2-1 on agg*; Wolfsburg (Ger) 0 Perugia (Ita) 2 *Perugia 3-0 on agg.*

Winners enter UEFA Cup at 1st rnd stage

AUSTRIA

Aug 16: Admira 4 Salzburg 0; Mattersburg 3 Bregenz 2; Pasching 2 Sturm Graz 1.
Aug 17: Grazer AK 5 Karnten 1; Rapid Wien 2 Austria Wien 2.
Aug 23: Austria Wien 2 Admira 1; Karnten 0 Pasching 0; Bregenz 4 Grazer AK 1; Sturm Graz 4 Salzburg 2.
Aug 24: Mattersburg 1 Rapid Wien 4.
Aug 30: Admira 2 Sturm Graz 1; Grazer AK 1 Mattersburg 1; Pasching 3 Bregenz 1.
Aug 31: Salzburg 0 Austria Wien 0; Rapid Wien 2 Karnten 2.
Sep 10: Austria Wien 1 Pasching 0; Mattersburg 0 Salzburg 1.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid Wien	7	5	2	0	17	8	17
Austria Wien	7	4	2	1	13	5	14
Grazer AK	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
Pasching	7	3	1	3	11	11	10
Bregenz	7	3	1	3	11	13	10
Mattersburg	8	2	3	3	9	13	9
Karnten	7	1	5	1	6	9	8
Admira	6	2	1	3	8	6	7
Sturm Graz	7	1	1	5	8	13	4
Salzburg	8	1	1	6	7	16	4

BELGIUM

Saturday, August 16

Beveren 1 (Sanogo 30)
St Truiden 4 (Buvens 44, Mbonabucya 65, Kalisa 70, Pereira 81) Att: 4,000

Genk 2 (Seyfo 59, Roussel 73)
Charleroi 0 Att: 22,323

Gent 1 (Ribus 30)
Anderlecht 3 (Wilhelmsson 5, Baseggio 56, Dindane 88) Att: 9,700

La Louviere 2 (Odemwingie 1, 38)
Heusden-Zolder 0 Att: 4,200

Royal Antwerp 2 (Goots 37, 55)
Westerlo 1 (Dosunmu 83) Att: 8,000

Sunday, August 17

Cercle Brugge 0
Club Brugge 2 (Mendoza 8, Simons pen 41) Att: 13,550

Mons 3 (Gomis 38, 44, Douai 90)
Mouscron 3 (Claeys 31, Pieroni 73, Mpenza 85) Att: 4,800

Standard 1 (Aliyu 83)
Lokeren 0 Att: 16,000

Monday, August 18

Lierse 0
Germinal Beerschot 0 Att: 10,000

Friday, August 22

Heusden-Zolder 0
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 3,123

Saturday, August 23

Anderlecht 3 (Dindane 59, Zetterberg 72, Baseggio 82)
St Truiden 0 Att: 24,102

Club Brugge 3 (Martens 19, Mendoza 59, 90)
La Louviere 3 (Ishiaku 26, Murcy 70, 90) Att: 21,745

Lokeren 1 (Fofana 87)
Beveren 2 (Yapi Yapo pen 33, Kaiper 61) Att: 5,100

Mouscron 1 (Mpenza 50)
Lierse 1 (Huysegems 72) Att: 6,657

Standard 4 (Kaklamanos 5, Da Silva Moreira 11, Walasiak 73, Aliyu 75)
Mons 0 Att: 17,000

Westerlo 2 (Janssens 43, Brogno 57)
Gent 2 (De Brul 40, 64) Att: 4,000

Sunday, August 24

Charleroi 0
Cercle Brugge 0 Att: 6,476

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Snelders 62, Hoefkens 88)
Genk 2 (Roussel 12, Thijs 49) Att: 8,500

Friday, August 29

Lierse 0
Standard 1 (Bangoura 54) Att: 8,300

Saturday, August 30

Anderlecht 1 (Mornar 11)
Beveren 0 Att: 23,901

Cercle Brugge 1 (Jbari 63)
Germinal Beerschot 0 Att: 4,400

La Louviere 0
Charleroi 0 Att: 4,000

Royal Antwerp 0
Club Brugge 4 (Simons pen 28, Verheyen 60, Saeternes 71, Mendoza pen 74) Att: 10,000

St Truiden 0
Westerlo 0 Att: 8,000

Sunday, August 31

Genk 2 (Vandenbergh 28, Thijs 70)
Mouscron 0 Att: 22,683

Gent 2 (Ribus pen 6, 89)
Heusden-Zolder 0 Att: 6,500

Mons 1 (La Placa 77)
Lokeren 1 (Fofana 5) Att: 4,000

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
Club Brugge	4	3	1	0	10	3	10
Standard	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
Genk	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Gent	4	2	1	1	9	7	7
La Louviere	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
St Truiden	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
Germinal B	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Lierse	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
Cercle Brugge	4	1	2	1	1	2	5
Royal Antwerp	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
Westerlo	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
Mouscron	4	0	3	1	6	8	3
Beveren	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
Lokeren	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Charleroi	4	0	2	2	0	3	2
Heusden-Zolder	4	0	2	2	0	4	2
Mons	4	0	2	2	4	9	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Andres Mendoza (Club Brugge)
4 Steven Ribus (Gent)
3 Constant Kaiper (Beveren)

BULGARIA

Aug 15: Cherno More 1 Spartak Varna 1.
Aug 16: Rodopa 3 Chernomorets 0; Belasitsa 3 Botev 0; Naftex 3 Makedonska 0; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 4 Marek 1.
Aug 17: Lovech 3 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Levski 2 Vidima-Rakovski 0; Slavia 2 CSKA 4.
Aug 23: Makedonska 3 Slavia 0; Marek 3 Naftex 0; Spartak Varna 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3; Botev 3 Cherno More 4; Chernomorets 2 Belasitsa 0; Vidima-Rakovski 3 Rodopa 2; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Levski 1; CSKA 1 Lovech 1.
Aug 29: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3 Botev 2.
Aug 30: Rodopa 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Belasitsa 2 Vidima-Rakovski 2; Cherno More 2 Chernomorets 2; Naftex 4 Spartak Varna 1; Slavia 2 Marek 0.
Aug 31: CSKA 4 Makedonska 1; Lovech 0 Levski 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lok Plovdiv	4	4	0	0	14	4	12
CSKA	4	3	1	0	11	5	10
Levski	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Naftex	4	2	0	2	8	6	6
Rodopa	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
Marek	4	2	0	2	8	8	6
Slavia	4	2	0	2	6	8	6
Lovech	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Cherno More	4	1	2	1	9	10	5
Vidima-Rakovski	4	1	2	1	8	9	5
Spartak Varna	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Chernomorets	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Belasitsa	4	1	1	2	5	8	4
Botev	4	1	0	3	6	10	3
Makedonska	4	1	0	3	4	11	3
Lok Sofia	4	0	2	2	6	9	2

CROATIA

Aug 16: Inker 1 Zagreb 1; Marsonia 1 Rijeka 1; Dinamo 4 Osijek 0.
Aug 17: Cibalia 2 Hajduk 3.
Aug 18: Zadar 2 Kamen Ingrad 1; Varteks 2 Slaven 0.
Aug 23: Slaven 0 Dinamo 1; Osijek 2 Marsonia 1; Kamen Ingrad 3 Inker 1; Hajduk 2 Varteks 0; Zagreb 2 Cibalia 0.
Aug 24: Rijeka 4 Zadar 2.
Aug 30: Zadar 0 Inker 0; Marsonia 0 Slaven 0; Rijeka 2 Osijek 0.
Aug 31: Varteks 2 Zagreb 0; Cibalia 1 Kamen Ingrad 1; Dinamo 1 Hajduk 0.
Sep 3: Rijeka 0 Dinamo 0.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	6	5	1	0	17	2	16
Hajduk	6	4	0	2	9	7	12
Rijeka	6	2	3	1	8	5	9
Osijek	6	3	0	3	10	13	9
Inker	6	2	2	2	10	8	8
Zagreb	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Varteks	6	2	2	2	6	6	8
Cibalia	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Marsonia	6	1	3	2	6	11	6
Slaven	6	1	2	3	2	5	5
Zadar	6	1	2	3	8	14	5
Kamen Ingrad	6	1	1	4	6	10	4

CZECH REPUBLIC

Aug 12: Synot 2 Plzen 2.
Aug 13: Brno 2 Opava 0; Liberec 1 Chmel Blsany 0.
Aug 16: Teplice 2 Opava 0; Pribram 1 Olomouc 1; Plzen 2 Slavia 1; Ostrava 5 Chmel Blsany 2; Zlin 0 Liberec 0; Jablonec 1 Synot 0.
Aug 17: Brno 2 Zizkov 1.
Aug 18: Sparta 3 Ceske Budejovice 0.
Aug 21: Slavia 0 Jablonec 0.
Aug 22: Olomouc 1 Sparta 1.
Aug 23: Opava 3 Pribram 2; Ceske Budejovice 1 Teplice 1; Zizkov 1 Ostrava 2; Chmel Blsany 1 Plzen 2; Synot 0 Zlin 0.
Aug 25: Liberec 0 Brno 0.
Aug 30: Teplice 1 Synot 1; Pribram 0 Ceske Budejovice 2; Olomouc 3 Opava 0; Ostrava 2 Plzen 0; Brno 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Sparta 0 Slavia 0.
Sep 1: Zlin 3 Zizkov 0; Jablonec 0 Liberec 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ostrava	6	5	1	0	15	5	16
Brno	6	4	2	0	10	3	14
Teplice	6	3	3	0	9	4	12
Olomouc	6	3	2	1	10	5	11
Slavia	6	3	2	1	7	2	11
Sparta	6	2	4	0	9	2	10
Liberec	6	2	4	0	5	2	10
Zlin	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
Plzen	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Zizkov	6	2	0	4	6	9	6
Jablonec	6	1	3	2	3	7	6
Pribram	6	1	2	3	7	8	5
Ceske Budejovice	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Opava	6	1	1	4	4	14	4
Synot	6	0	3	3	4	9	3
Chmel Blsany	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

DENMARK

Aug 16: AGF 5 Midtjylland 3.
Aug 17: AB 2 Esbjerg 4; OB 0 AaB 0; FC Copenhagen 2 Nordsjaelland 1; Frem 1 Herfolge 0; Viborg 2 Brondby 2.
Aug 23: Brondby 0 FC Copenhagen 1.
Aug 24: Esbjerg 3 AaB 2; Nordsjaelland 1 Frem 3; Herfolge 0 AB 2; Midtjylland 2 OB 1; Viborg 1 AGF 0.
Aug 30: AaB 0 Herfolge 2.
Aug 31: Esbjerg 2 Midtjylland 0; Nordsjaelland 0 Brondby 1; OB 4 Viborg 2; Frem 1 AB 2; FC Copenhagen 4 AGF 0.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esbjerg	6	4	2	0	13	6	14
FC Copenhagen	6	4	1	1	12	6	13
Brondby	6	4	1	1	9	3	13
OB	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Midtjylland	6	3	1	2	10	9	10
Frem	6	3	0	3	6	7	9
AB	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Viborg	6	1	3	2	8	10	6
Herfolge	6	2	0	4	4	7	6
Nordsjaelland	6	1	2	3	7	9	5
AaB	6	1	1	4	4	8	4
AGF	6	1	1	4	7	14	4

ENGLAND

Saturday, August 16

Arsenal 2 (Henry pen 34, Pires 58)
Everton 1 (Radzinski 84) Att: 38,014

Birmingham 1 (Dunn pen 35)
Tottenham 0 Att: 29,358

Blackburn 5 (Amoruso 17, Thompson 29, Emerton 52, Cole 79, 87)
Wolverhampton 1 (Iversen 71) Att: 26,270

Fulham 3 (Marlet 17, Inamoto 56, Saha 70)
Middlesbrough 2 (Marinelli 10, Nemeth 81) Att: 14,546

Leicester 2 (Dickov pen 5, Ferdinand 10)
Southampton 2 (Phillips 76, Beattie 80) Att: 31,621

Manchester Utd 4 (Giggs 36, 73, Scholes 77, Van Nistelrooy 87)
Bolton 0 Att: 67,647

Portsmouth 2 (Sheringham 41, Berger 63)
Aston Villa 1 (Barry pen 83) Att: 20,101

Sunday, August 17

Charlton 0
Manchester City 3 (Anelka pen 13, Sibierski 23, Sun 87) Att: 25,780

Leeds 2 (Viduka 24, Smith 57)
Newcastle 2 (Shearer pen 19, 88) Att: 36,766

Liverpool 1 (Owen pen 79)
Chelsea 2 (Veron 25, Hasselbaink 87) Att: 44,082

Saturday, August 23

Bolton 2 (Djorkaeff pen 3, Davies 25)
Blackburn 2 (Jansen 50, Yorke 90) Att: 27,423

Chelsea 2 (Nalis og 3, Mutu 45)
Leicester 1 (Scowcroft 40) Att: 41,073

Everton 3 (Naysmith 7, Unsworth 20, Watson 35)
Fulham 1 (Hayles 69) Att: 37,604

Manchester City 1 (Sommeil 90)
Portsmouth 1 (Aiyegbeni 24) Att: 46,238

Newcastle 1 (Shearer 26)
Manchester Utd 2 (Van Nistelrooy 51, Scholes 59) Att: 52,165

Southampton 0
Birmingham 0 Att: 31,656

Tottenham 2 (Taricco 41, Kanoute 71)
Leeds 1 (Smith 5) Att: 34,354

Wolverhampton 0
Charlton 4 (Euell 5, Jensen 15, Bartlett 25, 33) Att: 27,327

Sunday, August 24

Aston Villa 0
Liverpool 0 Att: 42,573

Middlesbrough 0
Arsenal 4 (Henry 5, Gilberto Silva 14, Wiltord 22, 62) Att: 29,450

Monday, August 25

Blackburn 2 (Sinclair og 44, Amoruso 61)
Manchester City 3 (Tarnat 4, Barton 59, Anelka 87) Att: 23,361

Tuesday, August 26

Charlton 2 (Euell pen 25, pen 49)
Everton 2 (Watson 26, Rooney 72) Att: 26,336

Leeds 0
Southampton 0 Att: 34,721

Leicester 0
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 30,823

Portsmouth 4 (Stone 48, Sheringham 57, 88, pen 90)
Bolton 0 Att: 20,113

Wednesday, August 27

Arsenal 2 (Campbell 57, Henry 90)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 38,500

Liverpool 0
Tottenham 0 Att: 43,778

Manchester Utd 1 (O'Shea 9)
Wolverhampton 0 Att: 67,648

Saturday, August 30

Aston Villa 3 (Thatcher og 8, Angel 10, 16)
Leicester 1 (Izzet 53) Att: 32,274

Bolton 0
Charlton 0 Att: 23,098

Chelsea 2 (Mutu 45, Hasselbaink pen 63)
Blackburn 2 (Cole 1, 58) Att: 41,006

Everton 0
Liverpool 3 (Owen 39, 52, Kewell 80) Att: 40,200

Middlesbrough 2 (Nemeth 60, Juninho 63)
Leeds 3 (Sakho 16, Camara 79, Viduka 89) Att: 30,414

Newcastle 0
Birmingham 1 (Dunn 61) Att: 52,006

Tottenham 0
Fulham 3 (Hayles 23, 67, Boa Morte 71) Att: 33,421

Wolverhampton 0
Portsmouth 0 Att: 28,860

Sunday, August 31

Manchester City 1 (Lauren og 11)
Arsenal 2 (Wiltord 48, Ljungberg 72) Att: 46,436

Southampton 1 (Beattie 88)
Manchester Utd 0 Att: 32,066

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	4	4	0	0	10	2	12
Man Utd	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Portsmouth	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Man City	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Chelsea	3	2	1	0	6	4	7
Birmingham	3	2	1	0	2	0	7
Fulham	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Southampton	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Blackburn	4	1	2	1	11	8	5
Liverpool	4	1	2	1	4	2	5
Charlton	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Leeds	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Aston Villa	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Everton	4	1	1	2	6	8	4
Tottenham	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
Leicester	4	0	2	2	4	7	2
Bolton	4	0	2	2	2	10	2
Newcastle	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Middlesbrough	4	0	1	3	4	10	1
Wolverhampton	4	0	1	3	1	10	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
4 Andrew Cole (Blackburn)
4 Teddy Sheringham (Portsmouth)
3 Jason Euell (Charlton)
3 Barry Hayles (Fulham)
3 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
3 Michael Owen (Liverpool)
3 Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
3 Sylvain Wiltord (Arsenal)

FRANCE

Saturday, August 16

Ajaccio 1 (Bagayoko 88)
Nantes 3 (Da Rocha 23, Armand 44, Pujol 52) Att: 8,000

Auxerre 3 (Akale 10, Kalou 33, Mathis 87)
Strasbourg 2 (Ljuboja 42, Mouloungui 88) Att: 12,750

Guingamp 1 (Gousse 24)
Bordeaux 3 (Deivid 6, Darcheville 34, 53) Att: 15,907

Le Mans 1 (D'Amico 23)
Nice 1 (Everson 44) Att: 12,127

Metz 0
Paris SG 1 (J Leroy 66) Att: 25,060

Monaco 2 (Adebayor 38, Zikos 45)
Bastia 0 Att: 11,000

Montpellier 0
Lyon 2 (Cacapa 11, Carriere 26) Att: 18,814

Sochaux 1 (Diawara 56)
Rennes 1 (Pagis og 80) Att: 14,069

Toulouse 0
Lille 3 (Manchev 38, 65, Brunel 71) Att: 15,547

Sunday, August 17

Lens 2 (Diop 21, Thomert 90)
Marseille 1 (Drogba 12) Att: 28,500

Saturday, August 23

Bastia 1 (Maurice pen 87)
Montpellier 0 Att: 6,232

Bordeaux 2 (Deivid 12, Pochettino 28)
Auxerre 0 Att: 27,418

Lille 1 (Manchev 47)
Metz 1 (Thiaw 3) Att: 15,651

Lyon 0
Toulouse 0 Att: 35,000

Marseille 2 (Drogba 34, Hemdani pen 84)
Sochaux 0 Att: 55,782

Nantes 1 (N'Zigou 79)
Le Mans 0 Att: 33,433

Nice 2 (Laslandes pen 11, 68)
Ajaccio 2 (Pamarot og 23, Laslandes og 59) Att: 12,610

Rennes 0
Guingamp 0 Att: 18,428

Strasbourg 0
Lens 1 (Moreira 15) Att: 19,685

Sunday, August 24

Paris SG 2 (Pauleta 15, Reinaldo 50)
Monaco 4 (Giuly 35, 90, Adebayor 37, Squillaci 57) Att: 45,000

Saturday, August 30

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 24, Kalou 74)
Rennes 1 (N'Guema 57) Att: 8,000

Guingamp 2 (Dagano 33, Fuentes 39)
Lyon 0 Att: 11,810

Le Mans 0
Strasbourg 3 (Niang 34, 57, Ljuboja 87) Att: 11,711

Montpellier 3 (Bamogo 57, 65, Rui Pataca 84)
Paris SG 2 (Reinaldo 20, 73) Att: 13,887

Nantes 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 33,346

Sochaux 2 (Santos 9, Abidal og 22)
Lille 1 (Brunel 8) Att: 14,643

Toulouse 0
Bastia 2 (Maurice 34, Ben Saada 39) Att: 14,730

Sunday, August 31

Ajaccio 0
Marseille 1 (Meriem 65) Att: 10,150

Lens 1 (Bakari 71)
Nice 0 Att: 36,136

Monaco 1 (Squillaci 38)
Metz 0 Att: 6,000

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	5	4	0	1	10	5	12
Marseille	5	4	0	1	6	2	12
Lille	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Nantes	5	3	1	1	7	3	10
Lens	5	3	1	1	4	3	10
Nice	5	2	2	1	6	5	8
Strasbourg	5	2	1	2	8	5	7
Bordeaux	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Lyon	5	2	1	2	5	4	7
Ajaccio	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Montpellier	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Sochaux	5	2	1	2	5	6	7
Bastia	5	2	1	2	3	4	7
Rennes	5	1	3	1	4	4	6
Auxerre	5	2	0	3	6	8	6
Metz	5	1	1	3	3	4	4
Paris SG	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Guingamp	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Le Mans	5	0	2	3	1	6	2
Toulouse	5	0	2	3	1	7	2

LEADING GOALSCORERS
3 Habib Bamogo (Montpellier)
3 Lilian Laslandes (Nice)
3 Danijel Ljuboja (Strasbourg)
3 Vladimir Manchev (Lille)
3 Mamadou Niang (Strasbourg)
3 Shabani Nonda (Monaco)
3 Reinaldo (Paris SG)

GERMANY

Saturday, August 16

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Franca 2, Neuville 9, 52, Bierofka 73)
Hannover 0 Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 2 (Pizarro 20, Deisler 26)
Bochum 0 Att: 63,000

Borussia Dortmund 3 (Amoroso 46, pen 56, Koller 61)
1860 Munich 1 (Kioyo 87) Att: 76,500

Hansa Rostock 3 (Max 18, 54, pen 66)
Eintracht Frankfurt 0 Att: 19,600

Hertha 0
Freiburg 0 Att: 32,508

Kaiserslautern 0
Werder Bremen 1 (Micoud 66) Att: 36,056

Monchengladbach 0
Stuttgart 1 (Cacau 33) Att: 30,700

Sunday, August 17

Schalke 2 (Agali 42, Altintop 90)
Koln 1 (Lottner 51) Att: 61,027

Wolfsburg 5 (Klimowicz 50, 86, Petrov 60, Muller 70, D'Alessandro 75)
Hamburg 1 (Barbarez 48) Att: 25,000

Saturday, August 23

Bochum 1 (Zdebel 65)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 21,030

Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Hertha 0 Att: 22,500

Freiburg 4 (Bajramovic 13, 28, Zeyer 34, Iashvili 80)
Monchengladbach 1 (Van Lent 68) Att: 25,000

Koln 1 (Lottner 57)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 33,000

1860 Munich 1 (Schwarz 60)
Wolfsburg 0 Att: 24,000

Stuttgart 2 (Cacau 8, Soldo 14)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 34,000

Werder Bremen 4 (Haristeas 12, Borovski 28, Ailton 35, Hadeo Valdez 81)
Schalke 1 (Agali 82) Att: 34,500

Sunday, August 24

Hamburg 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Pizarro 14, Elber 78) Att: 55,500

Wednesday, August 27

Hannover 3 (Christiansen 16, 66, Simak 71)
Hansa Rostock 3 (Max 43, 62, Vorbeck 90) Att: 21,312

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Bayern Munich	4	3	1	0	10	4	10
Stuttgart	4	3	1	0	5	0	10
B Leverkusen	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
B Dortmund	4	2	1	1	9	4	7
1860 Munich	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Wolfsburg	4	2	0	2	8	8	6
Hansa Rostock	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Freiburg	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Hannover	4	1	2	1	9	10	5
Schalke	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Bochum	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
M'gladbach	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Koln	4	1	0	3	3	5	3
Hertha	4	0	3	1	0	3	3
Eintracht F'furt	4	0	1	3	2	8	1
Hamburg	4	0	1	3	2	11	1
Kaiserslautern*	4	1	0	3	2	5	0

**3pts deducted for failing to supply accurate information when re-applying for professional licence*

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Martin Max (Hansa Rostock)
4 Ailton (Werder Bremen)
4 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
4 Claudio Pizarro (Bayern Munich)

GREECE

Aug 23: Aigaleo 0 AEK 1.
Aug 24: PAOK 0 Olympiakos 2; Akratitos 1 Aris 0; Iraklis 4 OFI 0; Proodeftiki 1 Halkidona 1; Panionios 3 Paniliakos 2; Ionikos 3 Kallithea 2; Panathinaikos 1 Xanthi 0.
Aug 30: Kallithea 1 Iraklis 1; Halkidona 1 Paniliakos 3.
Aug 31: Olympiakos 7 Akratitos 0; Aris 3 Proodeftiki 0; OFI 1 Panathinaikos 3; PAOK 2 Aigaleo 0; Xanthi 0 Panionios 0; AEK 3 Ionikos 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
AEK	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Panathinaikos	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Iraklis	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Panionios	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Aris	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Paniliakos	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
PAOK	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ionikos	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Akratitos	2	1	0	1	1	7	3
Kallithea	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Xanthi	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Halkidona	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Proodeftiki	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Aigaleo	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
OFI	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

HOLLAND

Friday, August 15

Roda JC 2 (Anastasiou pen 38, Van Dessel 44)
PSV 2 (Kezman 11, 55) Att: 14,000

Saturday, August 16

RKC 1 (Redan 67)
Den Haag 0 Att: 4,850

Twente 3 (Polak 52, Christensen 75, N'Kufo 90)
RBC 1 (Tininho 23) Att: 13,000

Willem II 1 (Mathijsen 9)
AZ 0 Att: 10,700

Sunday, August 17

Feyenoord 2 (Lazovic 52, Buffel 75)
NEC 1 (Wielaert pen 90) Att: 42,000

Groningen 1 (Vrede 5)
NAC 0 Att: 11,483

Utrecht 1 (Zwaanswijk 18)
Zwolle 0 Att: 18,500

Vitesse 1 (Amoah 13)
Ajax 2 (Frankel og 22, Sneijder 87) Att: 22,000

Volendam 0
Heerenveen 1 (Selakovic pen 29) Att: 5,370

Friday, August 22

AZ 3 (Reini 19, Nelisse 67, El Khattabi 87)
Twente 0 Att: 6,775

Saturday, August 23

Den Haag 1 (Pronk 85)
Utrecht 1 (De Groot 20) Att: 5,000

Heerenveen 1 (Sibon 19)
Feyenoord 0 Att: 14,600

NAC 2 (Stam 67, Peto 75)
Vitesse 0 Att: 13,000

PSV 6 (Ooijer 10, Rommedahl 32, Van Bommel 36, Kezman 39, 58, Park 63)
Willem II 1 (Sektioui 18) Att: 32,500

RBC 0
Ajax 1 (Soetaers 35) Att: 5,000

Sunday, August 24

NEC 1 (De Freitas 90)
Roda JC 3 (Cristiano 40, 67, Anastasiou 61) Att: 12,000

Volendam 3 (Putter 17, Buys pen 19, Esajas 56)
Groningen 0 Att: 5,750

Zwolle 0
RKC 3 (Redan 24, 29, Petrovic 90) Att: 6,150

Friday, August 29

Vitesse 1 (Bochem 67)
AZ 2 (Buskermolen 42, Meerdink 88) Att: 17,500

Willem II 2 (Hadouir 2, Shoukov 32)
Heerenveen 0 Att: 11,500

Saturday, August 30

Roda JC 0
RBC 2 (Youssouf 17, Daelemans 89) Att: 12,500

Twente 0
PSV 2 (Kezman 18, Rommedahl 31) Att: 13,000

Sunday, August 31

Ajax 1 (Pienaar 32)
Zwolle 0 Att: 47,880

Feyenoord 2 (Bombarda 83, Buffel 90)
NAC 1 (Diba 24) Att: 34,000

Groningen 2 (Matthijs 13, Salmon 90)
Den Haag 0 Att: 12,165

RKC 3 (Hoogendorp pen 8, 14, Redan 27)
Volendam 0 Att: 6,400

Utrecht 0
NEC 1 (Schuurman 42) Att: 17,500

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RKC	3	3	0	0	7	0	9
Ajax	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
PSV	3	2	1	0	10	3	7
AZ	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
Feyenoord	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Groningen	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Heerenveen	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Willem II	3	2	0	1	4	6	6
Roda JC	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Utrecht	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
NAC	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
RBC	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Volendam	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
NEC	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
Twente	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
Den Haag	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Vitesse	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
Zwolle	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Mateja Kezman (PSV)
4 Iwan Redan (RKC)

HUNGARY

Aug 23: Ferencvaros 2 MTK 1; Balaton 1 Debrecen 0; Haladas 3 Videoton 0; Gyor 1 Bekescsaba 0; Zalaegerszeg 1 Matav 3.
Aug 24: Pecs 1 Ujpest 1.
Aug 31: Bekescsaba 2 Haladas 2; Ujpest 0 Ferencvaros 0; MTK 4 Gyor 1; Videoton 2 Siofok 1; Matav 3 Pecs 1; Debrecen 4 Zalaegerszeg 0.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Matav	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
MTK	5	3	0	2	11	7	9
Pecs	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Ujpest	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
Siofok	5	2	2	1	5	3	8
Videoton	5	2	2	1	7	7	8
Debrecen	5	2	1	2	8	4	7
Haladas	5	2	1	2	7	7	7
Bekescsaba	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
Gyor	5	1	1	3	2	8	4
Ferencvaros*	5	1	4	0	5	4	1
Zalaegerszeg	5	0	0	5	3	15	0

**6pts deducted because of a pitch invasion by Ferencvaros supporters during a game last season*

ITALY

Saturday, August 30

Reggina 2 (Cozza 5, Di Michele 41)
Sampdoria 2 (Bazzani 62, Diana 73) Att: 21,531

Sunday, August 31

Bologna 2 (Guglielminpietro 7, Locatelli 77)
Parma 2 (Adriano 20, 87) Att: 35,000

Brescia 1 (Filippini pen 58)
Chievo 1 (Lanna 12) Att: 13,298

Inter 2 (Vieri 86, Materazzi 90)
Modena 0 Att: 61,516

Juventus 5 (Del Piero 16, 51, Trezeguet 61, 74, Di Vaio pen 85)
Empoli 1 (Di Natale 88) Att: 43,956

Lazio 4 (Albertini 20, Corradi 25, Fiore 36, Oddo 84)
Lecce 1 (Konan 50) Att: 47,760

Perugia 2 (Vryzas 10, Bothroyd 27)
Siena 2 (Ardito 19, Taddei 48) Att: 12,000

Udinese 1 (Kroldrup 27)
Roma 2 (Delvecchio 13, Montella 70) Att: 17,054

Monday, September 1

Ancona 0
Milan 2 (Shevchenko 30, 76) Att: 22,746

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	1	1	0	0	5	1	3
Lazio	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Inter	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Milan	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Roma	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Bologna	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Parma	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Perugia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Reggina	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Sampdoria	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Siena	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Brescia	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Chievo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Udinese	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Ancona	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Modena	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lecce	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Empoli	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
2 Adriano (Parma)
2 Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)
2 Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
2 David Trezeguet (Juventus)

NORWAY

Aug 15: Bodo/Glimt 3 Stabaek 1.
Aug 16: Lillestrom 4 Bryne 0; Odd Grenland 5 Tromso 0; Sogndal 0 Valerenga 0; Viking 3 Brann 3; Aalesund 0 Rosenborg 2.
Aug 17: Lyn 0 Molde 2.
Aug 23: Rosenborg 4 Viking 1.
Aug 24: Tromso 2 Lillestrom 0; Bryne 0 Bodo/Glimt 2; Stabaek 1 Molde 1; Aalesund 2 Lyn 0; Valerenga 0 Odd Grenland 3.
Aug 25: Brann 6 Sogndal 1.
Aug 31: Molde 3 Bryne 2; Bodo/Glimt 1 Tromso 2; Odd Grenland 1 Brann 3; Viking 4 Aalesund 0; Sogndal 1 Rosenborg 1; Lyn 2 Stabaek 3.
Sep 1: Lillestrom 0 Valerenga 0.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	19	14	4	1	47	14	46
Bodo/Glimt	19	10	4	5	28	19	34
Odd Grenland	19	9	3	7	35	29	30
Sogndal	19	8	6	5	33	29	30
Viking	19	7	8	4	36	24	29
Stabaek	19	7	7	5	29	26	28
Brann	19	6	7	6	34	32	25
Lillestrom	19	6	7	6	21	24	25
Molde	19	7	3	9	24	30	24
Bryne	19	7	1	11	30	37	22
Valerenga	19	4	8	7	19	22	20
Tromso	19	5	4	10	23	41	19
Lyn	19	4	4	11	21	37	16
Aalesund	19	3	6	10	19	35	15

POLAND

Aug 15: Amica 1 Lech 0.
Aug 16: Wisla K 4 Swit 0; Gornik Z 1 Gornik P 0; Legia 0 Gornik L 0.
Aug 17: Wisla P 0 Polonia 0; Groclin 4 Odra 0; Widzew 1 Katowice 2.
Aug 22: Wisla K 2 Gornik Z 0.
Aug 23: Gornik L 1 Groclin 0; Gornik P 1 Amica 0; Odra 1 Widzew 0; Katowice 0 Swit 0; Lech 4 Wisla P 1.
Aug 24: Polonia 0 Legia 1.
Aug 29: Legia 2 Lech 1.
Aug 30: Swit 0 Gornik Z 0; Amica 2 Wisla K 0; Widzew 0 Gornik L 1.
Aug 31: Wisla P 3 Gornik P 0; Groclin 2 Polonia 2; Katowice 2 Odra 0.

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gornik L	4	3	1	0	5	1	10
Wisla K	4	3	0	1	8	2	9
Amica	4	3	0	1	5	1	9
Legia	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Groclin	4	2	1	1	10	3	7
Gornik Z	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
Katowice	4	2	1	1	4	5	7
Wisla P	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Odra	4	1	1	2	2	7	4
Lech	4	1	0	3	6	6	3
Swit	4	0	3	1	2	6	3
Gornik P	4	1	0	3	1	6	3
Polonia	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Widzew	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

PORTUGAL

Saturday, August 16

Academica 1 (Alvim 52)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Lourenco 67, Beto 90)

Sunday, August 17

Boavista 0
Benfica 0

Gil Vicente 0
Alverca 1 (Lima 50)

Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho pen 61)
Beira Mar 0

Moreirense 1 (Lito 79)
Rio Ave 0

Nacional 2 (Rossato 3, Serginho 70)
Pacos Ferreira 0

FC Porto 2 (McCarthy 23, Derlei 82)
Sporting Braga 0

Monday, August 18

Guimaraes 1 (Fangueiro 60)
Uniao Leiria 0

Friday, August 22

Alverca 0
Maritimo 1 (Van der Gaag 66)

Saturday, August 23

Benfica 2 (Zahovic 44, Feher 80)
Guimaraes 0

Sporting Lisbon 4 (Rochemback pen 14, Tonito 28, 60, Lourenco 57)
Belenenses 2 (Sousa 30, Leonardo 46)

Uniao Leiria 0
Academica 2 (Dario 5, 35)

Sunday, August 24

Estrela Amadora 1 (Julio Cesar 76)
FC Porto 1 (McCarthy 62)

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Rui Miguel 65)
Moreirense 0

Rio Ave 1 (Naciri 37)
Gil Vicente 1 (Nandinho 50)

Sporting Braga 1 (Barroso pen 39)
Nacional 0

Monday, August 25

Beira Mar 0
Boavista 2 (Ricardo Sousa 36, 42)

Saturday, August 30

Boavista 1 (Ricardo Sousa pen 53)
Guimaraes 0

Moreirense 0
Sporting Braga 2 (Paulo Sergio 1, Jorge Luiz 54)

Sunday, August 31

Beira Mar 1 (Alcaraz 43)
Alverca 0

Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho 15)
Rio Ave 0

Nacional 4 (Patacas 15, Mario Carlos 58, 68, Adriano 82)
Estrela Amadora 0

Monday, September 1

Belenenses 1 (Neca 11)
Uniao Leiria 1 (Douala 68)

Tuesday, September 2

FC Porto 4 (Derlei 3, Jankauskas 51, Maniche 65, McCarthy pen 87)
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Rochemback 79)

Wednesday, September 3

Gil Vicente 2 (J Ferreira 1, Cadu og 88)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Sunday, September 7

Belenenses 4 (Eliseu 34, Antchouet 63, 69, 85)
Estrela Amadora 0

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maritimo	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
FC Porto	3	2	1	0	7	2	7
Boavista	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
Nacional	3	2	0	1	6	1	6
Sporting Braga	3	2	0	1	3	2	6
Sporting Lisbon	3	2	0	1	7	7	6
Belenenses	3	1	1	1	7	5	4
Benfica	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Gil Vicente	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
Academica	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Alverca	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Beira Mar	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Guimaraes	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Moreirense	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Pacos Ferreira	3	1	0	2	1	4	3
Rio Ave	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Uniao Leiria	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
Estrela Amadora	3	0	1	2	1	9	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
3 Henri Antchouet (Belenenses)
3 Benni McCarthy (FC Porto)

ROMANIA

Aug 15: Petrolul 1 Arges 0.
Aug 16: Poli AEK 0 Ceahlaul 0; Gloria 0 Apulum 1; U Craiova 0 Bacau 0; Farul 1 Otelul 1; Brasov 4 National 1.
Aug 17: Rapid 1 Steaua 1; Dinamo 1 Oradea 0.
Aug 22: U Craiova 3 Gloria 0.
Aug 23: Otelul 2 Brasov 1; Steaua 1 Dinamo 0; Arges 1 Poli AEK 1; Oradea 0 Petrolul 0; Ceahlaul 3 Apulum 0.
Aug 24: Bacau 4 Farul 3.
Aug 27: National 0 Rapid 2.
Aug 29: Farul 3 U Craiova 0.
Aug 30: Brasov 2 Bacau 2; Rapid 2 Otelul 0; Poli AEK 2 Oradea 1; Apulum 1 Arges 5; Gloria 2 Ceahlaul 0.
Aug 31: Dinamo 4 National 1; Petrolul 1 Steaua 1.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steaua	4	2	2	0	7	2	8
Rapid	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Arges	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
Ceahlaul	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
U Craiova	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Dinamo	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
Gloria	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Poli AEK	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Bacau	4	1	2	1	6	8	5
Petrolul	4	1	2	1	3	5	5
Farul	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Brasov	4	1	1	2	7	9	4
Otelul	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Apulum	4	1	1	2	2	8	4
National	4	1	0	3	4	10	3
Oradea	4	0	2	2	2	4	2

RUSSIA

Aug 16: Torpedo-Metallurg 2 CSKA 1; Spartak-Alaniya 1 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Rubin 1 Rotor 0; Zenit 1 Shinnik 2; Chernomorets 0 Saturn 1.
Aug 17: Rostov 1 Lokomotiv 1; Dinamo 3 Moscow Spartak 2.
Aug 18: Uralan 2 Torpedo Moscow 2.
Aug 23: Moscow Spartak 0 Rubin 2; Lokomotiv 2 Saturn 1.
Aug 24: CSKA 3 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Spartak-Alaniya 2 Torpedo-Metallurg 0; Torpedo Moscow 1 Shinnik 1; Zenit 5 Uralan 1; Rostov 0 Chernomorets 2; Rotor 0 Dinamo 1.
Aug 30: Torpedo-Metallurg 0 Rostov 3; Zenit 0 Dinamo 0.
Aug 31: CSKA 1 Saturn 1; Spartak-Alaniya 1 Chernomorets 0; Lokomotiv 2 Kryliya Sovetov 1; Uralan 0 Rotor 1; Shinnik 1 Moscow Spartak 2.
Sep 1: Torpedo Moscow 4 Rubin 2.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	24	14	6	4	46	26	48
Saturn	23	11	8	4	31	20	41
Dinamo	23	11	7	5	37	23	40
Rubin	23	11	7	5	33	21	40
Lokomotiv	24	11	6	7	37	30	39
Zenit	23	11	6	6	33	27	39
Shinnik	23	9	10	4	32	21	37
Kryliya Sovetov	23	8	9	6	29	23	33
Torpedo Moscow	23	8	8	7	32	29	32
Rostov	23	7	8	8	25	31	29
Moscow Spartak	23	8	4	11	33	40	28
Rotor	23	6	4	13	25	33	22
Chernomorets	23	5	6	12	22	32	21
Uralan	23	4	8	11	16	34	20
Spartak-Alaniya	23	6	2	15	15	37	20
Torpedo-Metallurg	23	3	5	15	14	33	14

SCOTLAND

Saturday, August 16

Aberdeen 2 (Zdrilic 24, Deloumeaux 90)
Rangers 3 (De Boer 38, Arteta 43, Mols 58) Att: 16,348

Celtic 5 (Maloney 12, Agathe 27, Thompson pen 45, McNamara 67, Larsson 84)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 57,658

Kilmarnock 2 (Hardie 46, Boyd 60)
Partick 1 (Grady 39) Att: 6,778

Livingston 1 (Lilley 78)
Motherwell 0 Att: 5,316

Sunday, August 17

Dundee 0
Dunfermline 2 (Wilkie og 45, Crawford 88) Att: 7,750

Hibernian 1 (O'Connor 90)
Hearts 0 Att: 14,803

Saturday, August 23

Aberdeen 1 (Zdrilic 23)
Dunfermline 2 (Brewster 30, Nicholson 56) Att: 10,870

Dundee 2 (Novo 17, pen 84)
Livingston 1 (O'Brien 37) Att: 5,815

Hearts 3 (Stamp 21, Wilson og 22, De Vries 36)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 11,395

Motherwell 2 (McFadden pen 66, Pearson 90)
Kilmarnock 1 (Dindeleux 76) Att: 5,087

Partick 1 (Grady 26)
Celtic 2 (Lambert 8, Thompson pen 44) Att: 9,045

Rangers 5 (Mols 34, 62, O'Connor og 43, Arteta 67, Burke 84)
Hibernian 2 (Murray 29, McManus 36) Att: 49,642

Saturday, August 30

Celtic 5 (Larsson 25, 56, 77, Maloney 39, Thompson 90)
Livingston 1 (Lilley 85) Att: 57,165

Hibernian 1 (Brown 69)
Aberdeen 1 (Anderson 6) Att: 10,682

Motherwell 2 (McFadden 9, 69)
Partick 2 (Britton 26, Taylor 82) Att: 6,193

Sunday, August 31

Dundee Utd 1 (Dodds 82)
Rangers 3 (Capucho 14, Arveladze 85, Arteta pen 89) Att: 9,752

Hearts 1 (Wyness 60)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 11,934

Kilmarnock 1 (Boyd 79)
Dundee 1 (Novo 54) Att: 5,973

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	4	4	0	0	15	5	12
Celtic	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
Hearts	4	3	0	1	6	1	9
Dundee	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Dunfermline	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Hibernian	4	2	1	1	6	7	7
Motherwell	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Kilmarnock	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Livingston	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
Partick	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Aberdeen	4	0	1	3	4	8	1
Dundee Utd	4	0	0	4	2	13	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Mikel Arteta (Rangers)
4 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
4 Michael Mols (Rangers)

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Aug 23: Buducnost 3 Vojvodina 1; Zemun 3 Sartid 0; Radnicki O 0 Napredak 0; Obilic 2 Partizan 1; Zeleznik 3 Sutjeska 0; Kom Podgorica 1 Zeta 2; Red Star 2 Hajduk K 0; Borac 1 OFK 2.
Aug 30: Hajduk K 1 Radnicki O 1; Napredak 1 Zemun 0; OFK 1 Obilic 0; Vojvodina 0 Zeleznik 3.
Aug 31: Sartid 5 Buducnost 1; Partizan 6 Kom Podgorica 2; Zeta 1 Red Star 1; Sutjeska 4 Borac 1.

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OFK	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Napredak	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
Partizan	3	2	0	1	13	5	6
Zeleznik	3	2	0	1	6	1	6
Sartid	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Obilic	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Sutjeska	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Zemun	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
Red Star	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Zeta	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Hajduk K	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Buducnost	3	1	0	2	4	7	3
Radnicki O	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Vojvodina	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Kom Podgorica	3	0	0	3	4	11	0
Borac	3	0	0	3	3	12	0

SPAIN

Saturday, August 30

Albacete 0
Osasuna 2 (Valdo 41, Punal pen 90) Att: 14,000

Athletic Bilbao 0
Barcelona 1 (Cocu 12) Att: 40,000

Espanyol 1 (Lopez Rekarte og 22)
Real Sociedad 1 (Kovacevic 67) Att: 17,800

Malaga 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 16,000

Real Madrid 2 (Beckham 3, Ronaldo 61)
Betis 1 (Juanito 34) Att: 60,000

Valencia 1 (Aimar 76)
Valladolid 1 (Sousa 24) Att: 45,000

Sunday, August 31

Celta Vigo 1 (Milosevic 31)
Murcia 1 (Luis Garcia pen 74) Att: 18,000

Racing Santander 2 (Benayoun 11, Javi Guerrero 69)
Mallorca 1 (Eto'o pen 90) Att: 11,517

Sevilla 1 (Julio Baptista 25)
Atletico Madrid 0 Att: 30,000

Zaragoza 0
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Pandiani 66) Att: 26,000

Tuesday, September 2

Osasuna 0
Valencia 1 (Baraja 49) Att: 14,195

Real Sociedad 1 (Kovacevic 37)
Celta Vigo 1 (Milosevic 63) Att: 23,000

Villarreal 1 (Anderson 70)
Real Madrid 1 (Nunez 85) Att: 22,000

Wednesday, September 3

Atletico Madrid 1 (Jorge 50)
Albacete 0 Att: 45,000

Barcelona 1 (Ronaldinho 58)
Sevilla 1 (Reyes pen 9) Att: 80,237

Betis 2 (Joaquin 30, Palermo 38)
Espanyol 2 (Raul Molina 68, Lopo 90) Att: 35,000

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Valeron 12, Pandiani 58)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 30,000

Mallorca 2 (Bruggink 43, Eto'o pen 52)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 12,000

Murcia 1 (Richi 8)
Racing Santander 1 (Javi Guerrero 44) Att: 12,000

Valladolid 1 (Jesus pen 42)
Malaga 0 Att: 11,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep La Coruna	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Racing Santander	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Real Madrid	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sevilla	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Valencia	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Valladolid	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Mallorca	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Osasuna	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Atletico Madrid	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Espanyol	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Celta Vigo	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Murcia	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Real Sociedad	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Villarreal	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Betis	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Malaga	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Albacete	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Athletic Bilbao	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Zaragoza	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS
2 Samuel Eto'o (Mallorca)
2 Javi Guerrero (Racing Santander)
2 Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
2 Savo Milosevic (Celta Vigo)
2 Walter Pandiani (Deportivo La Coruna)

SUPER CUP

1st leg - Aug 24 - Son Moix stadium, Palma de Mallorca
Mallorca 2 (Bruggink 45, Eto'o 48)
Real Madrid 1 (Figo 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Perez Burrull

2nd leg - Aug 27 - Bernabeu, Madrid
Real Madrid 3 (Raul 45, Ronaldo 52, Beckham 72)
Mallorca 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Medina Cantalejo
Real Madrid 4-2 on agg

SWEDEN

Aug 16: Enkopings 0 Halmstads 4; Sundsvall 1 Elfsborg 1; Landskrona 1 Orgryte 1.
Aug 17: AIK 1 Osters 1; Malmo 6 Hammarby 0; Orebro 2 Helsingborgs 1.
Aug 23: Djurgardens 3 Landskrona 0.
Aug 24: Halmstads 0 Malmo 4; Helsingborgs 5 AIK 1.
Aug 25: Osters 4 Hammarby 4; Elfsborg 1 Enkopings 1; Orgryte 1 Sundsvall 0.
Aug 26: Orebro 2 IFK Gothenburg 2.
Aug 31: Enkopings 0 Helsingborgs 2; Hammarby 3 Orgryte 0; Landskrona 1 Halmstads 0.
Sep 1: Djurgardens 2 AIK 1; Sundsvall 0 Orebro 1; IFK Gothenburg 0 Elfsborg 1; Malmo 3 Osters 2.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Djurgardens	19	14	1	4	45	16	43
Malmo	20	11	5	4	43	18	38
Hammarby	20	11	5	4	36	26	38
Halmstads	20	10	3	7	33	24	33
Helsingborgs	20	9	3	8	24	28	30
Orgryte	20	9	3	8	28	33	30
Orebro	20	8	5	7	24	27	29
IFK Gothenburg	19	7	5	7	26	19	26
AIK	20	7	5	8	28	30	26
Elfsborg	20	6	7	7	20	26	25
Landskrona	20	6	7	7	19	26	25
Osters	20	3	6	11	22	37	15
Sundsvall	20	2	8	10	16	30	14
Enkopings	20	2	5	13	19	43	11

SWITZERLAND

Aug 16: Servette 1 St Gallen 3; Thun 0 Basle 4; Wil 1900 1 Neuchatel Xamax 1.
Aug 17: Aarau 3 Young Boys 1; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 0.
Aug 22: St Gallen 1 Grasshopper 2; Neuchatel Xamax 0 Aarau 1; Zurich 3 Wil 1900 1; Young Boys 2 Thun 1.
Aug 24: Basle 6 Servette 0.
Aug 30: Aarau 3 Zurich 3; St Gallen 4 Wil 1900 1.
Aug 31: Grasshopper 0 Basle 4; Servette 4 Young Boys 1; Thun 0 Neuchatel Xamax 0.
Sep 3: Basle 4 St Gallen 1; Neuchatel Xamax 2 Servette 3; Wil 1900 1 Aarau 0; Young Boys 4 Grasshopper 0; Zurich 4 Thun 0.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	9	9	0	0	33	9	27
Young Boys	9	6	0	3	20	15	18
Servette	9	5	2	2	19	16	17
Aarau	9	3	4	2	12	11	13
Neuchatel X	9	3	2	4	11	12	11
Grasshopper	9	3	1	5	12	19	10
St Gallen	9	2	3	4	13	17	9
Zurich	9	2	2	5	15	14	8
Thun	9	1	4	4	8	20	7
Wil 1900	9	1	2	6	12	22	5

TURKEY

Aug 15: Trabzonspor 0 Fenerbahce 1.
Aug 16: Denizlispor 1 Rizespor 1; Ankaragucu 4 Samsunspor 2; Istanbulspor 1 Adanaspor 0; Besiktas 1 Bursaspor 0.
Aug 17: Diyarbakirspor 3 Genclerbirligi 2; Elazigspor 0 Konyaspor 0; Malatyaspor 3 Sebatspor 1; Gaziantepspor 1 Galatasaray 2.
Aug 23: Bursaspor 2 Galatasaray 2; Rizespor 2 Malatyaspor 1; Sebatspor 1 Istanbulspor 3; Fenerbahce 7 Elazigspor 1; Adanaspor 0 Trabzonspor 1.
Aug 24: Samsunspor 2 Denizlispor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Gaziantepspor 0; Besiktas 3 Ankaragucu 0; Konyaspor 3 Diyarbakirspor 1.
Aug 29: Denizlispor 2 Besiktas 3.
Aug 30: Malatyaspor 5 Samsunspor 0; Elazigspor 3 Adanaspor 4; Diyarbakirspor 1 Fenerbahce 2; Gaziantepspor 3 Konyaspor 1.
Aug 31: Istanbulspor 3 Rizespor 0; Trabzonspor 2 Sebatspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Genclerbirligi 1; Ankaragucu 2 Bursaspor 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Istanbulspor	4	4	0	0	10	1	12
Besiktas	4	4	0	0	10	3	12
Galatasaray	4	3	1	0	8	5	10
Malatyaspor	4	3	0	1	10	3	9
Fenerbahce	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Trabzonspor	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Rizespor	4	2	1	1	5	6	7
Ankaragucu	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Konyaspor	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
Denizlispor	4	1	1	2	6	6	4
Gaziantepspor	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Elazigspor	4	1	1	2	7	13	4
Genclerbirligi	4	1	0	3	6	8	3
Adanaspor	4	1	0	3	4	6	3
Diyarbakirspor	4	1	0	3	6	9	3
Samsunspor	4	1	0	3	5	13	3
Bursaspor	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Sebatspor	4	0	0	4	3	10	0

UKRAINE

Aug 17: Shakhtar 3 Volyn 1; Chornomorets 2 Tavriya 0; Arsenal 4 Vorskla 0; Kryvbas 0 Metalurh D 0; Metalurh Z 2 Dynamo 2; Borysfen 1 Obolon 0; Karpaty 0 Zirka 0.
Aug 18: Dnipro 2 Illichivets 0.
Aug 31: Zirka 0 Shakhtar 1; Illichivets 1 Metalurh Z 1; Vorskla 1 Kryvbas 1; Metalurh D 3 Dnipro 1; Volyn 1 Chornomorets 1; Dynamo 3 Borysfen 0; Tavriya 1 Arsenal 1.
Sep 1: Obolon 1 Karpaty 0.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	7	7	0	0	16	2	21
Dynamo	7	5	1	1	16	5	16
Dnipro	7	5	0	2	14	6	15
Metalurh D	7	3	4	0	12	7	13
Chornomorets	7	3	3	1	8	5	12
Obolon	7	3	1	3	5	5	10
Illichivets	7	2	3	2	8	8	9
Karpaty	7	2	2	3	7	8	8
Metalurh Z	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Arsenal	7	2	1	4	9	12	7
Tavriya	7	1	4	2	4	7	7
Vorskla	7	1	4	2	5	12	7
Kryvbas	7	1	3	3	4	8	6
Zirka	7	1	2	4	3	9	5
Borysfen	7	1	2	4	2	8	5
Volyn	7	0	2	5	5	14	2

SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, August 15

Gimnasia LP 0
Racing Club 0

Saturday, August 16

Banfield 0
Independiente 1 (Dudar 75)

Rosario Central 0
Chacarita Juniors 0

Sunday, August 17

Arsenal 1 (Denis 84)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Gonzalez 69)

Colon Santa Fe 5 (Fuertes 17, 21, Moreno y Fabianesi 69, Martinez 77, Delgado 84)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Osorio 10)

Olimpo 0
Atletico Rafaela 1 (Forestello 5)

Quilmes 0
Estudiantes 0

River Plate 0
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Vasquez 41, Patino 58)

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Obolo 23)
Boca Juniors 3 (Tevez 54, Schiavi 68, 80)

Monday, August 18

San Lorenzo 1 (Acosta 10)
Lanus 1 (Carrario 85)

Friday, August 22

Nueva Chicago 1 (Tilger 27)
Olimpo 1 (Hanuch 49)

Racing Club 2 (Mirosevic 38, Gonzalez 90)
Rosario Central 2 (Barros Schelotto 68, Gonzalez 75)

Saturday, August 23

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Mignini 18)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Lanus 0
Gimnasia LP 0

Talleres Cordoba 0
San Lorenzo 3 (Acosta 35, Diaz 43, 50)

Sunday, August 24

Atletico Rafaela 1 (Juarez 35)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Miglionico 70)

Estudiantes 0
Arsenal 0

Independiente 2 (Gimenez 54, Caggiano 90)
River Plate 2 (Salas 67, Ameli 69)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Vasquez 2, 28)
Quilmes 1 (Garnier 41)

Friday, August 29

San Lorenzo 1 (Diaz 1)
Atletico Rafaela 1 (Villa 61)

Saturday, August 30

Arsenal 3 (Denis 2, 6, Gandolfi 87)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Rosales 32, 64)

Quilmes 1 (Lopez 69)
Independiente 1 (Morales 43)

Sunday, August 31

Banfield 0
River Plate 0

Boca Juniors 2 (Azconzabal og 8, Tevez 53)
Chacarita Juniors 0
Game suspended after 69mins because of crowd violence; result stood

Colon Santa Fe 3 (Fuertes 58, 81, Piccolli 74)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Tilger 63)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Choy 20, Licht 90)
Talleres Cordoba 2 (Perrone 18, De Bruno 54)

Olimpo 0
Estudiantes 0

Rosario Central 3 (Gonzalez 14, Belloso 69, Sanchez 90)
Lanus 1 (Carrario 26)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Zarate 63, 70, Flotta 90)
Racing Club 3 (Milito 30, 35, Mirosevic pen 39)

ARGENTINA - OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	4	4	0	0	10	1	12
Colon Santa Fe	5	2	3	0	9	3	9
Independiente	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Quilmes	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
Newell's OB	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Atletico Rafaela	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Chacarita Jnrs	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Rosario Central	5	2	2	1	7	8	8
Racing Club	5	1	4	0	6	5	7
Estudiantes	5	1	3	1	4	3	6
Arsenal	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Banfield	4	1	2	1	3	1	5
San Lorenzo	5	1	2	2	6	5	5
River Plate	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Talleres Cordoba	5	1	2	2	5	11	5
Gimnasia LP	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
Lanus	5	0	4	1	4	6	4
Olimpo	5	0	3	2	3	5	3
Nueva Chicago	5	0	2	3	4	9	2
Velez Sarsfield	5	0	1	4	5	12	1

LEADING GOALSCORERS
4 German Denis (Arsenal)
4 Esteban Fuertes (Colon Santa Fe)

BOLIVIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

BOLIVIA – CLOSING: GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aurora	4	3	1	0	7	4	10
Blooming	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Real Potosi	4	2	0	2	6	7	6
San Jose	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Union Central	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Bolivar	4	1	0	3	5	5	3

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oriente	4	3	1	0	12	2	10
J Wilstermann	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
The Strongest	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Iberoamericana	4	2	0	2	3	7	6
Independiente	4	1	1	2	3	8	4
Guabira	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

BRAZIL

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Vasco da Gama 1 Vitoria 0; Bahia 1 Internacional 3; Atletico Mineiro 1 Atletico Paranaense 2; Figueirense 1 Santos 0; Sao Paulo 0 Criciuma 0; Coritiba 1 Juventude 0.
Aug 17: Paysandu 2 Corinthians 2; Fluminense 0 Flamengo 1; Sao Caetano 3 Fortaleza 0; Ponte Preta 1 Cruzeiro 3; Gremio 0 Goias 1; Parana 0 Guarani 0.
Aug 20: Flamengo 1 Sao Caetano 0; Santos 2 Paysandu 0; Corinthians 0 Vasco da Gama 0; Goias 1 Parana 0; Fortaleza 0 Sao Paulo 2; Juventude 1 Bahia 0; Cruzeiro 2 Coritiba 2; Atletico Paranaense 1 Figueirense 2; Vitoria 4 Gremio 1.
Aug 21: Criciuma 3 Ponte Preta 0; Internacional 0 Fluminense 1; Guarani 2 Atletico Mineiro 2.
Aug 23: Santos 2 Flamengo 1; Gremio 0 Sao Caetano 0; Atletico Paranaense 3 Fortaleza 1; Goias 1 Cruzeiro 0.
Aug 24: Vasco da Gama 3 Sao Paulo 2; Paysandu 3 Ponte Preta 2; Parana 2 Fluminense 0; Corinthians 3 Internacional 1; Atletico Mineiro 1 Bahia 0; Vitoria 3 Juventude 0; Figueirense 1 Coritiba 2; Guarani 1 Criciuma 0.
Aug 30: Fluminense 2 Gremio 0; Fortaleza 0 Santos 0; Cruzeiro 4 Guarani 1; Sao Paulo 1 Paysandu 0; Internacional 0 Vitoria 1.
Aug 31: Sao Caetano 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Juventude 0 Goias 2; Flamengo 1 Corinthians 0; Coritiba 2 Atletico Mineiro 2; Criciuma 2 Atletico Paranaense 0; Bahia 4 Parana 2; Ponte Preta 1 Figueirense 1.

BRAZIL – NATIONAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	29	16	7	6	62	37	55
Santos	29	16	7	6	52	31	55
Sao Paulo	29	15	8	6	51	37	53
Coritiba	29	14	8	7	48	34	50
Internacional*	29	13	6	10	41	35	47
Criciuma	29	13	6	10	39	34	45
Sao Caetano	29	11	12	6	30	23	45
At Mineiro	29	11	11	7	51	43	44
Flamengo	29	11	8	10	42	45	41
Corinthians	29	10	11	8	45	34	41
Guarani	29	11	7	11	42	43	40
Vitoria	29	11	7	11	36	41	40
Parana	29	11	6	12	50	45	39
Figueirense	29	10	8	11	32	36	38
Goias	29	9	10	10	44	42	37
At Paranaense	29	10	6	13	38	40	36
Paysandu	29	9	9	11	50	51	36
Vasco da Gama	29	9	9	11	35	42	36
Ponte Preta*	29	8	11	10	39	46	31
Bahia	29	8	7	14	33	49	31
Fluminense	29	8	6	15	32	48	30
Juventude*	29	6	8	15	26	49	29
Fortaleza	29	7	6	16	32	48	27
Gremio	29	6	6	17	26	43	24

**Ponte Preta have been docked the 4pts gained from the 1-1 draw with Internacional and the 1-0 win over Juventude for fielding an ineligible player in each game; Internacional were awarded two extra points (ie the equivalent of a win), and Juventude received three points. However, the won-drawn-lost and goals records were not altered*

CHILE

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 15: Dep Temuco 2 U de Chile 1.
Aug 16: Cobresal 1 U Catolica 1; San Felipe 4 Cobreloa 1; Huachipato 1 U de Concepcion 2.
Aug 17: Colo Colo 2 Palestino 1; Audax Italiano 3 Union Espanola 2; Puerto Montt 2 Rangers 0; Santiago Wanderers 2 Coquimbo Unido 1.
Aug 23: Palestino 1 Cobresal 0; Coquimbo Unido 1 Puerto Montt 3.
Aug 24: Cobreloa 3 Santiago Wanderers 1; Union Espanola 4 San Felipe 1; Rangers 3 Dep Temuco 2; U de Chile 1 Huachipato 2.
Aug 25: U Catolica 2 Audax Italiano 0.
Aug 29: Audax Italiano 1 Palestino 3.
Aug 30: Cobresal 3 U de Concepcion 4; San Felipe 1 Wanderers 1; Union Espanola 1 U Catolica 0; Coquimbo Unido 2 Dep Temuco 1.
Aug 31: Puerto Montt 2 Cobreloa 1; Huachipato 1 Rangers 1; Colo Colo 1 U de Chile 1.
Sep 7: U de Concepcion 1 Colo Colo 1.

CHILE – CLOSING: GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobreloa	6	2	1	3	10	9	7
U de Chile	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Huachipato	6	2	0	4	12	16	6
Dep Temuco	6	2	0	4	9	15	6

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	6	3	3	0	15	9	12
Palestino	6	4	0	2	13	11	12
Sant Wanderers	6	2	3	1	8	8	9
Audax Italiano	6	1	1	4	6	13	4

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Espanola	6	3	2	1	15	10	11
U Catolica	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Puerto Montt	6	3	0	3	9	11	9
Coquimbo Unido	6	1	1	4	7	11	4

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U de Concepcion	6	4	2	0	16	7	14
Rangers	6	3	1	2	9	11	10
Cobresal	6	2	2	2	9	7	8
San Felipe	6	1	2	3	8	11	5

COLOMBIA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 15: Envigado 1 Indep Santa Fe 2.
Aug 16: Millonarios 2 Centauros 0.
Aug 17: Dep Cali 3 Bucaramanga 2; Once Caldas 1 America 0; Dep Pasto 0 Pereira 0; Tolima 2 At Junior 1; Indep Medellin 1 Tulua 2; Magdalena 3 At Huila 1; Quindio 1 At Nacional 0.
Aug 24: America 1 Envigado 2; Indep Santa Fe 0 Dep Cali 0; At Huila 2 Millonarios 1; Pereira 0 Tolima 0; Centauros 0 Once Caldas 1; At Nacional 1 Magdalena 0; Tulua 1 Quindio 0; Bucaramanga 1 Dep Pasto 0; At Junior 1 Indep Medellin 0.
Aug 30/31: America 0 Indep Santa Fe 0; Envigado 3 Centauros 1; Once Caldas 3 At Huila 3; Millonarios 0 At Nacional 0; Magdalena 3 Tulua 0; Quindio 1 At Junior 1; Indep Medellin 2 Pereira 0; Tolima 4 Bucaramanga 1; Dep Pasto 1 Dep Cali 1.

COLOMBIA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	8	5	2	1	17	7	17
Tolima	8	4	3	1	13	8	15
Millonarios	8	4	2	2	10	4	14
Magdalena	8	4	1	3	8	6	13
Indep Santa Fe	8	3	4	1	7	6	13
Once Caldas	8	3	3	2	8	7	12
Pereira	8	3	3	2	6	6	12
At Nacional	8	3	2	3	7	5	11
Quindio	8	2	4	2	7	7	10
Bucaramanga	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
Centauros	8	3	1	4	8	11	10
Envigado	8	2	3	3	8	9	9
America	8	2	3	3	7	8	9
Dep Pasto	8	2	3	3	7	9	9
At Junior	8	2	3	3	9	13	9
Indep Medellin	8	2	2	4	7	6	8
At Huila	8	2	2	4	10	15	8
Tulua	8	2	0	6	3	14	6

ECUADOR

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 15: Dep Cuenca 1 El Nacional 0.
Aug 16: Dep Quito 3 Manta 0; Tecnico Universitario 1 Barcelona 2; Aucas 0 LDU Quito 3; Emelec 1 Espoli 1.
Aug 23: El Nacional 1 Aucas 2.
Aug 24: LDU Quito 0 Dep Quito 0; Manta 1 Tecnico Universitario 0; Espoli 1 Barcelona 1; Emelec 2 Dep Cuenca 1.

ECUADOR – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LDU Quito	11	7	1	3	22	9	22
Dep Quito	11	7	1	3	16	13	22
Barcelona	11	5	4	2	17	8	19
Emelec	11	5	2	4	17	14	17
El Nacional	11	4	4	3	16	12	16
Dep Cuenca	11	4	3	4	9	10	15
Espoli	11	4	3	4	16	20	15
Aucas	11	4	2	5	17	16	14
Manta	11	2	3	6	9	18	9
Tecnico Univ	11	0	3	8	5	23	3

PARAGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Cerro Porteno 2 Tacuary 1.
Aug 17: Guarani 1 San Lorenzo 1; Sol de America 4 Sport Colombia 1; Sportivo Luqueno 0 12 de Octubre 0; Libertad 0 Olimpia 0.
Aug 23: Sol de America 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Aug 24: Sportivo Luqueno 3 Sport Colombia 2; Guarani 1 12 de Octubre 0; Libertad 2 San Lorenzo 0; Tacuary 1 Olimpia 4.
Aug 29: San Lorenzo 0 Tacuary 4.
Aug 31: 12 de Octubre 0 Libertad 0; Cerro 0 Olimpia 1; Sol de America 1 Sportivo Luqueno 0; Sport Colombia 0 Guarani 0.

PARAGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad	11	6	4	1	21	12	22
Cerro Porteno	11	6	3	2	17	10	21
Olimpia	11	5	4	2	17	10	19
Guarani	11	5	3	3	15	10	18
Tacuary	11	4	3	4	16	15	15
Sportivo Luqueno	11	3	5	3	13	13	14
Sol de America	11	2	4	5	8	10	10
Sport Colombia	11	3	1	7	14	23	10
12 de Octubre	11	1	6	4	3	7	9
San Lorenzo	11	2	3	6	10	24	9

PERU

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Alianza Lima 3 Union Huaral 0.
Aug 17: Sporting Cristal 0 Cienciano 0; Alianza Atletico 2 Universitario 0; Coronel Bolognesi 1 At Universidad 2; Melgar 2 Sport Boys 3; Dep Wanka 2 Estudiantes 0.
Aug 30: At Universidad 1 Melgar 2; Sport Boys 1 Alianza Lima 3.
Aug 31: Coronel Bolognesi 3 Universitario 1; Cienciano 1 Alianza Atletico 1; Estudiantes 1 Sporting Cristal 2; Union Huaral 0 Dep Wanka 0.

PERU – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Atletico	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
Alianza Lima	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Dep Wanka	4	2	1	1	3	1	7
Coronel Bolognesi	4	2	0	2	7	5	6
At Universidad	4	2	0	2	4	5	6
Cienciano	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Sport Boys	4	1	2	1	7	8	5
Sporting Cristal	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Union Huaral	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Estudiantes	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Universitario	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Melgar	4	1	0	3	6	9	3

URUGUAY

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 17: Bella Vista M 1 Villa Espanola 4.
Aug 29: Cerro 1 Plaza 0.
Aug 30: Fenix 1 Miramar Misiones 2.
Aug 31: Wanderers 1 Nacional 2; River Plate 0 Liverpool 1; Tacuarembo 0 Dep Colonia 1; Juventud 1 Bella Vista M 2; Villa Espanola 0 Dep Maldonado 1; Central Espanol 2 Defensor 1.

URUGUAY – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Danubio	4	3	1	0	9	3	10
Nacional	5	3	1	1	12	8	10
Cerro	5	3	0	2	7	4	9
Central Espanol	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Dep Maldonado	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
River Plate	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
Bella Vista M	5	3	0	2	5	6	9
Miramar Misiones	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Liverpool	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Fenix	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Villa Espanola	5	1	2	2	9	8	5
Dep Colonia	5	1	2	2	6	9	5
Wanderers	5	1	1	3	5	7	4
Plaza	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Tacuarembo	5	1	1	3	4	7	4
Defensor	5	1	0	4	6	9	3
Juventud	5	0	0	5	2	11	0

VENEZUELA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Ital-Chacao 2 Monagas 1.
Aug 17: El Vigia 1 Dep Tachira 2; Maracaibo 0 Trujillanos 0; Carabobo 1 Caracas 2; Mineros Guayana 4 Estudiantes 1.

VENEZUELA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caracas	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Mineros Guayana	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
Maracaibo	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Ital-Chacao	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Dep Tachira	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Carabobo	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Monagas	3	1	0	2	5	7	3
Estudiantes	3	0	2	1	2	5	2
El Vigia	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Trujillanos	3	0	1	2	1	4	1

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Aug 16: Toluca 1 Pachuca 1; Cruz Azul 4 Atlas 1; Guadalajara 0 Jaguares 1; Tigres 2 Morelia 0; Necaxa 2 Atlante 0.
Aug 17: Pumas UNAM 0 San Luis 0; Tecos UAG 2 Monterrey 1; Irapuato 2 Gallos Blancos 1; Puebla 1 Santos 1; Veracruz 3 America 2.
Aug 23: Jaguares 1 Necaxa 1; Monterrey 2 Irapuato 2; Morelia 1 Toluca 2; San Luis 0 Cruz Azul 0; Atlas 2 Veracruz 2.
Aug 24: America 0 Tecos UAG 1; Atlante 3 Puebla 0; Gallos Blancos 1 Tigres 7; Pachuca 2 Guadalajara 0; Santos 3 Pumas UNAM 0.
Aug 27: Puebla 1 Atlas 1; Monterrey 1 Veracruz 1.
Aug 30: Veracruz 3 San Luis 1; Toluca 2 Gallos Blancos 0; Cruz Azul 0 Santos 2; Monterrey 2 America 2; Guadalajara 0 Morelia 1; Necaxa 1 Pachuca 1.
Aug 31: Irapuato 2 Tigres 0; Pumas UNAM 1 Atlante 1; Puebla 4 Jaguares 1; Tecos UAG 1 Atlas 0.
Sep 6: Jaguares 2 Pumas UNAM 5; Morelia 3 Necaxa 3; San Luis 1 Tecos UAG 3; Atlas 2 Monterrey 3.
Sep 7: Pachuca 0 Puebla 2; America 1 Irapuato 0; Gallos Blancos 1 Guadalajara 2; Santos 3 Veracruz 0.

MEXICO – OPENING: GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Puebla	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Pachuca	6	1	4	1	5	5	7
Monterrey	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Atlas	6	0	2	4	6	12	2

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tigres	5	3	1	1	11	4	10
Cruz Azul	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Morelia	6	2	2	2	9	10	8
San Luis	6	1	3	2	7	7	6
Jaguares	6	1	1	4	5	12	4

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tecos UAG	6	4	1	1	9	6	13
Santos	6	3	2	1	11	4	11
Pumas UNAM	6	3	2	1	11	9	11
America	6	1	2	3	9	11	5
Gallos Blancos	6	0	1	5	5	16	1

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Irapuato	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
Veracruz	6	2	3	1	10	10	9
Atlante	5	2	2	1	10	8	8
Necaxa	6	1	5	0	9	7	8
Guadalajara	6	2	1	3	6	8	7

LEADING GOALSCORERS
5 Walter Gaitan (Tigres)
5 Luis Quinteros (Puebla)
4 Everaldo Begines (Irapuato)
4 Reinaldo Navia (Morelia)
4 Luis Gabriel Rey (Atlante)

UNITED STATES

Aug 16: New England Revolution 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1 (aet); Chicago Fire 3 DC United 1; Dallas Burn 3 Kansas City Wizards 2; Colorado Rapids 2 Columbus Crew 1 (aet); Los Angeles Galaxy 1 MetroStars 1 (aet).
Aug 20: Chicago Fire 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 0.
Aug 22: Kansas City Wizards 2 Colorado Rapids 2 (aet).
Aug 23: Dallas Burn 1 Columbus Crew 2; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 New England Revolution 1 (aet).
Aug 24: MetroStars 1 Chicago Fire 2; San Jose Earthquakes 1 DC United 0.
Aug 30: New England Revolution 5 Chicago Fire 1; Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Dallas Burn 1; San Jose Earthquakes 1 Colorado Rapids 2.
Aug 31: Columbus Crew 1 Kansas City Wizards 0.
Sep 6: DC United 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; Kansas City Wizards 1 MetroStars 2; Colorado Rapids 2 Dallas Burn 1; Chicago Fire 1 Columbus Crew 1 (aet).
Sep 7: San Jose Earthquakes 2 New England Revolution 1.

USA – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chicago Fire	23	11	7	5	40	31	40
MetroStars	22	9	7	6	32	28	34
DC United	22	8	6	8	29	27	30
Columbus Crew	23	7	7	9	29	31	28
New England	23	6	8	9	38	40	26

USA – WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose	23	12	7	4	34	24	43
Colorado Rapids	23	10	4	9	30	32	34
Kansas City	23	7	8	8	37	34	29
LA Galaxy	23	7	8	8	28	26	29
Dallas Burn	23	4	4	15	24	48	16

LEADING GOALSCORERS
13 Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
13 Taylor Twellman (New England Revolution)
12 Ante Razov (Chicago Fire)
11 Preki (Kansas City Wizards)
11 John Spencer (Colorado Rapids)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals groups

Group A

August 22

Ismaili (Egy) 6 (Saber 42, Traore 59, 79, Mohsen 62, 64, Nahas 88)
Enyimba (Nig) 1 (Nwaneri 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Daami (Tun)
Sent off: Okemiri (Enyimba) 28min

August 24

Simba (Tan) 1 (Mwarinwe 49)
ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tangawarima (Zim)

September 7

Enyimba 3 (Doumbia og 4, Ndidi 36, pen 63)
ASEC Abidjan 1 (Ndiri 39)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Guezzaz (Mor)

Simba 0
Ismaili 0
Ref: Maliet (Sey)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enyimba	3	2	0	1	7	7	6
Ismaili	3	1	2	0	7	2	5
Simba	3	1	1	1	1	3	4
ASEC Abidjan	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Sep 19: Ismaili v Simba
Sep 21: ASEC Abidjan v Enyimba
Oct 3: Ismaili v ASEC Abidjan
Oct 4: Simba v Enyimba
Oct 19: ASEC Abidjan v Simba;
Enyimba v Ismaili

Group B

August 24

USM Alger (Alg) 0
Esperance (Tun) 1 (Diaky 48)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Abdella (Lby)

Canon Yaounde (Cam) 2 (Belonga pen 15, 57)
AS Aviacao (Ang) 1 (Antonio Alves pen 30)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Aboubacar (IvC)

September 5

USM Alger 3 (Benchergui 2, Ouichaoui 40, pen 59)
Canon Yaounde 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ndoye (Sen)
Sent off: Djahnine (USM) 76min; Ntieche (Canon) 77min

September 6

AS Aviacao 0
Esperance 0
Ref: Lim Kee-chong (Mrs)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	3	2	1	0	3	1	7
AS Aviacao	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
USM Alger	3	1	0	2	3	2	3
Canon Yaounde	3	1	0	2	3	6	3

Sep 20: Esperance v AS Aviacao
Sep 21: Canon Yaounde v USM Alger
Oct 3: USM Alger v AS Aviacao
Oct 5: Canon Yaounde v Esperance
Oct 18: AS Aviacao v Canon Yaounde;
Esperance v USM Alger

Top two from each group qualify for semi-finals

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 6: Africa Sports (IvC) 0 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1; Power Dynamos (Zam) 2 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1.
Sep 7: Asante Kotoko (Gha) 2 APR FC (Rwa) 1; Baladeyet Al Mehalla (Egy) 1 Julius Berger (Nig) 1.

CAF CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

Sep 6: Club Africain (Tun) 4 Green Buffaloes (Zam) 1; Enugu Rangers (Nig) 4 Al Ahly (Egy) 0.
Sep 7: Black Rhinos (Zim) 1 Raja Casablanca (Mor) 1; JS Kabylie (Alg) 0 Cotonsport (Cam) 0.

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-final, 2nd leg

August 30

Dalian Shide (Chn) 4 (Wang Peng 27, Jankovic 77, Hao Haidong 81, 84)
Al Ain (UAE) 3 (Rodrigo Mendes 45, Omar 65, Majidi 87)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Okada (Jap)
Sent off: Fahd Ahli (Al Ain) 80min
Al Ain 7-6 on agg

JAPAN

SECOND STAGE

Aug 16: Kashima Antlers 1 Nagoya Grampus Eight 0; FC Tokyo 2 Cerezo Osaka 1; Urawa Reds 3 Jubilo Iwata 1; Kashiwa Reysol 2 Kyoto Purple Sanga 0; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Tokyo Verdy 1969 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Vegalta Sendai 2.
Aug 17: Vissel Kobe 0 JEF United Ichihara 1; Gamba Osaka 1 Oita Trinita 0.
Aug 23: JEF United Ichihara 2 Gamba Osaka 1; Jubilo Iwata 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 0; Nagoya Grampus Eight 3 FC Tokyo 2; Cerezo Osaka 0 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Oita Trinita 1 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Kyoto Purple Sanga 0 Urawa Reds 0.
Aug 24: Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Kashima Antlers 1; Vegalta Sendai 1 Vissel Kobe 1.
Aug 30: Kashima Antlers 1 Oita Trinita 0; Urawa Reds 2 Vissel Kobe 0; Kashiwa Reysol 1 Gamba Osaka 1; FC Tokyo 4 Yokohama F Marinos 1; Shimizu S-Pulse 3 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1; Nagoya Grampus Eight 1 JEF United Ichihara 3; Kyoto Purple Sanga 1 Jubilo Iwata 0; Cerezo Osaka 4 Vegalta Sendai 2.
Sep 6: Jubilo Iwata 2 Cerezo Osaka 2; Vegalta Sendai 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 3; Tokyo Verdy 1969 4 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1; Yokohama F Marinos 1 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Gamba Osaka 2 Urawa Reds 1; Vissel Kobe 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 2.
Sep 7: JEF United Ichihara 2 Kashima Antlers 3; Oita Trinita 0 FC Tokyo 0.

JAPAN – 2ND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kashima Antlers	4	3	1	0	6	3	10
JEF United	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
FC Tokyo	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Urawa Reds	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Shimizu S-Pulse	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Gamba Osaka	4	2	1	1	5	4	7
Kashiwa Reysol	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Grampus Eight	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
Tokyo Verdy	4	1	2	1	8	7	5
Yokohama FM	4	1	2	1	5	7	5
Cerezo Osaka	4	1	1	2	7	7	4
Jubilo Iwata	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Kyoto PS	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Oita Trinita	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
Vegalta Sendai	4	0	2	2	5	10	2
Vissel Kobe	4	0	1	3	2	6	1

SOUTH KOREA

Aug 20: Busan 2 Ulsan 1; Anyang 1 Daejeon 2; Chunnam 0 Suwon 0; Chonbuk 0 Songnam 1; Pohang 1 Gwangju 0; Bucheon 0 Daegu 0.
Aug 23: Ulsan 2 Anyang 1; Busan 1 Daegu 0.
Aug 24: Gwangju 2 Bucheon 1; Daejeon 3 Chunnam 3.
Aug 27: Busan 0 Songnam 4.
Aug 31: Chunnam 2 Anyang 1; Chonbuk 5 Busan 0; Pohang 2 Ulsan 3; Bucheon 3 Daejeon 1; Gwangju 0 Suwon 1; Songnam 2 Daegu 0.
Sep 3: Suwon 1 Daejeon 2; Songnam 2 Ulsan 1; Gwangju 2 Busan 0; Bucheon 1 Anyang 4; Pohang 2 Chunnam 3; Chonbuk 2 Daegu 1.

SOUTH KOREA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Songnam	29	21	4	4	56	27	67
Ulsan	30	17	6	7	47	29	57
Chunnam	29	11	13	5	45	36	46
Daejeon	30	12	9	9	35	36	45
Anyang	30	11	11	8	56	45	44
Chonbuk	29	11	11	7	48	38	44
Suwon	29	11	11	7	33	30	44
Pohang	29	10	10	9	36	35	40
Gwangju	30	9	4	17	30	41	31
Busan	29	7	7	15	25	47	28
Daegu	30	3	10	17	23	46	19
Bucheon	30	2	8

The world next month

The most important games over the next four weeks

Sat, September 20
Costa Rica v Egypt *(friendly, tbc)*

Wed, September 24
UEFA Cup, *1st round, 1st legs*

Sat, September 27
Malawi v Zimbabwe *(COSAFA Castle Cup Final, 1st leg)*

Tue/Wed, September 30/October 1
UEFA Champions League, *Matchday 2*

Sun, October 5
Zimbabwe v Malawi *(COSAFA Castle Cup Final, 2nd leg)*

Fri, October 10
Somalia v Ghana *(World Cup qualifier, Mogadishu)*
Guinea-Bissau v Mali *(World Cup qualifier, Bissau)*

Sat, October 11
Uganda v Mauritius *(World Cup qualifier, Kampala)*
Tanzania v Kenya *(World Cup qualifier, Dar-es-Salaam)*
Sao Tome e Principe v Libya *(World Cup qualifier, Sao Tome)*
Seychelles v Zambia *(World Cup qualifier, Mahe)*
Niger v Algeria *(World Cup qualifier, Niamey)*
Madagascar v Benin *(World Cup qualifier, Antananarivo)*
Equatorial Guinea v Togo *(World Cup qualifier, Bata)*
Burkina Faso v Central African Republic *(World Cup qualifier, Ouagadougou)*
Ukraine v Macedonia *(friendly, tbc)*
Tunisia v Morocco *(friendly, Tunis)*
South Africa v Costa Rica *(friendly, tbc)*
Portugal v Albania *(friendly, tbc)*
Mexico v Senegal *(friendly, tbc)*
Finland v Canada *(friendly, Tampere)*

Cyprus v Slovenia *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 1, Limassol)*
France v Israel *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 1, Saint-Denis)*
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Denmark *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 2, Zenica)*
Norway v Luxembourg *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 2, Oslo)*
Austria v Czech Republic *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 3, Vienna)*
Holland v Moldova *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 3, Eindhoven)*
Hungary v Poland *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 4, Budapest)*
Sweden v Latvia *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 4, Stockholm)*
Germany v Iceland *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 5, Hamburg)*
Scotland v Lithuania *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 5, Glasgow)*
Armenia v Spain *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 6, Yerevan)*
Greece v Northern Ireland *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 6, Athens)*
Liechtenstein v Slovakia *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 7, Vaduz)*
Turkey v England *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 7, Istanbul)*
Belgium v Estonia *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 8, Liege)*
Croatia v Bulgaria *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 8, Zagreb)*
Italy v Azerbaijan *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 9, tbc)*
Wales v Serbia & Montenegro *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 9, Cardiff)*
Russia v Georgia *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 10, Moscow)*
Switzerland v Rep of Ireland *(Euro 2004 qualifier, Gp 10, Basle)*

Sun, October 12
Botswana v Lesotho *(World Cup qualifier, Gaborone)*
Burundi v Gabon *(World Cup qualifier, Bujumbura)*
Chad v Angola *(World Cup qualifier, N'Djamena)*
Congo v Sierra Leone *(World Cup qualifier, Brazzaville)*
Ethiopia v Malawi *(World Cup qualifier, Addis Abeba)*
Gambia v Liberia *(World Cup qualifier, Bakau)*
Guinea v Mozambique *(World Cup qualifier, Conakry)*
Rwanda v Namibia *(World Cup qualifier, Kigali)*
Sudan v Eritrea *(World Cup qualifier, Khartoum)*
Swaziland v Cape Verde Islands *(World Cup qualifier, Mbabane)*
Zimbabwe v Mauritania *(World Cup qualifier, Harare)*

Costa Rica v Argentina *(friendly, tbc)*
Japan v Brazil *(friendly, Bangkok)*

Tue, October 14
Thailand v Japan *(friendly, Bangkok)*

Wed, October 15
UEFA Cup, *1st round, 2nd legs*

Mexico v Uruguay *(friendly, Chicago)*

In next month's issue...

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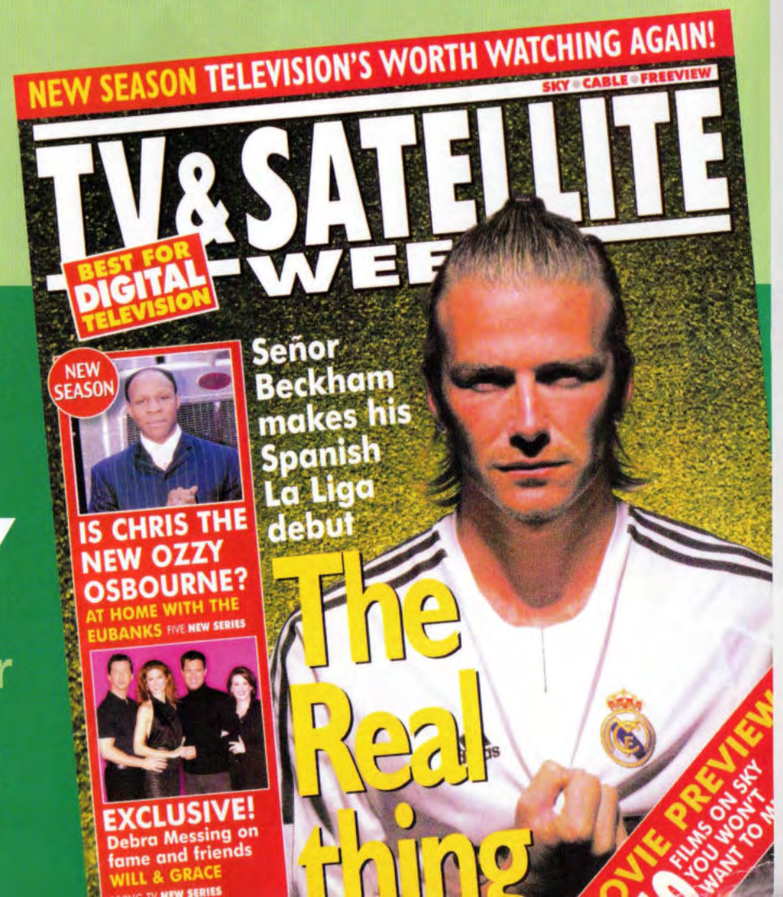

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